NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, CH.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MR. W. LESLIE YAW, CH.
SITKA, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, CH.
JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1431, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
September 5, 1939

Dr. Everett R. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

In order that you may know the working of the minds of some of the presbyters I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter which is going to the members of the National Missions Committee.

Rev. J. L. Webster of Sitka has been serving on the M/s Princeton. Mr. Webster was present at the dedication of the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Juneau, and gave the sermon. He has told me that he has a spell of wanting to leave Sitka, but he wishes to remain in Alaska. The new plant and opportunity to lead in the development of the organization of that Indian Church in Juneau has appealed to him.

Mr. Webster is a strong character, one of the best evangelists in the Presbytery, is acquainted with many of the young people of Juneau through his pastorate in connection with the Sheldon Jackson School. Mrs. Webster is a talented musician and able leader of young people.

An elder of the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Juneau told me today that he thought a young minister and wife with three to five years experience would do better in making the church a community center for the Indians and mixed bloods. His thought is that an older man will make an old people's church while a younger man will lead a young people's following and make for a stronger organization.

I am certain that most of the members of Presbytery believe that a white minister should serve the Memorial Church. We believe that Walter Soboleff is not the man for the Memorial Church at this time. He may grow to fit the situation, but we believe that it would be a real mistake to place him there this year. We must not leave the Memorial Church vacant. Sitka could be left vacant for a time because there are so many able leaders who can preach and direct the organizations. You understand that the Sheldon Jackson School staff is at hand to carry on when the minister is absent.

This is not a campaign letter for Mr. Webster. When the communications from the other members of the N. M. Committee arrive, I will let you know the response of each. I feel the need of a longer consideration before writing more. Am writing this for two reasons. The first is that we have heard nothing from the Board as to a candidate. The second is suggested in the opening paragraph.

At the same time please keep in mind and get the earliest possible action on a good minister and wife for the Craig-Klawock field.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
September 5th 1939

Copy for Dr King:

Members of National Missions Committee
Presbytery of Alaska

Brethern:

A presbyter told me that Rev. David Waggoner had resigned from the Juneau Memorial Presbyterian Church as of Oct. 1st, and that the Board had accepted the resignation. Neither Mr. Waggoner nor the Board has communicated with me on the subject.

Rev. J. L. Webster has written that Mrs. Webster and he would like to be considered as candidates for the Juneau Memorial Presbyterian Church. Websters indicate their interest in the Juneau Church and desire to have the task of developing its program. He feels a new field would be good for them after serving Sitka for eleven years, that Juneau affords a good place for the children to receive educational opportunities. Webster has added that if it is the judgment of the N. M. Committee that they should stay in Sitka, they will do so. They want to stay in Alaska.

Mr. Webster had suggested Rev. Donald G. Christiansen for the Juneau Memorial Church but he now suggests the Christiansens for Sitka, and he states that he believes that Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen"would make a big hit in Sitka." The Christiansens have attended and taught classes in a number of Y. P. Conferences in Sitka. Webster thinks that the Sitka Church would benefit by the change, and that if the Committee and the Sitka Church concurred in a call the appointment could be arranged.

The suggestion was made that Rev. and Mrs. E. E. Bromley would do well on the Ketchikan field, and that they would enjoy service in that Indian Church. It is suggested that the Hoonah field requires too much physical effort, and that a younger couple should be given the opportunity to develop the program among the Hoonah people and in the surrounding groups.

Since Hoonah is the largest Indian village in Alaska, the counsel has been offered that on ordination about January 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Soboleff be appointed to serve the Hoonah Church. Walter is finishing his course at Dubuque, and Genevieve is said to be taking a rest so as to build up her vitality and resistance.

No word has been received from the Board as to the Craig-Klawock field. Let us pray that Dr. King may soon locate the strong, consecrated workers to properly mann that important field.

Rev. and Mrs. Verne J. Swanson are preparing to move to Hydaburg to begin service about October 1st. Verne said he had rented his house to a good family. Mrs. Swanson passed through Wrangell yesterday on her way to Petersburg.

Please write your response to the above suggestions. We do need to give the fields and workers our earnest consideration. This is the day for advance. We should give our convictions to Dr. King before we say anything to the fields.

Sincerely, Russell F. Pederson

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 6th 1939

Dr. Everett R. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: SAXMAN CHURCH

In the Spring meeting of Presbytery a recommendation was made as follows:

"Presbytery approve the transfer of the Saxman Church property to the village of Saxman with the understanding that ecclesiastical control and supply of minister by continued by the Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Alaska."

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen had high hopes at that time that the Federal Government would do that which had been verbally promised, namely put the church building in good repair after moving it to the new site which would conform with the parking plans proposed.

Later Mr. Christiansen expressed disappointment because the officers of the Forestry Department did not offer such satisfactory promises.

Last Monday when I visited Ketchikan and Saxman Mr. Christiansen said that he thought the Presbytery and Board should not transfer the property until definite assurance was made that the Government would not only move the building but put the church in sightly condition. The church needs shingling as well as painting or new finish. The building is in disgraceful condition.

Mr. Christiansen feels that the opportunity at present in Saxman does not warrant the Board putting in the necessary amount to renovate the property.

Some of us believe that if the Board holds off the Forestry will offer to do the work so as to have the church not spoil their general plan.

It is dangerous to try to force their hands.

I wonder just what has been done as to the transfer of that title to Saxman church property. Would appreciate knowing. Suggest that papers be sent through either Mr. Christiansen or myself when the transaction is carried through.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

Dr King,

Mr Fisher was a student worker sent by the Board for the summer. We found him a very liberal Congregationalist. He expressed desire for more evangelical experience.

We wish you could send Presbyterian students for the ministry rather than those of another denomination

Sincerely
Rudolph Peterson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 6, 1939

Mr. George F. Fisher
19 Channing St.
Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Your final report is being forwarded to Dr. C. N. Wonacott today. Your letter is much appreciated, and we are thankful that you have had such a rich experience in this part of the world.

We are interested in your statement: "I'm thinking very seriously of continued Alaskan or far western church service at present, so impressive of opportunity has this summer been."

Since you ask for advise as to the best way of entering the Alaskan service as a full time worker, I will add the following:

If you are considering missionary service with the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., my advice would be for you to enter a Presbyterian Theological Seminary for further study.

To be a good presbyter a minister needs to be schooled in Presbyterian theology, church government, history, and discipline. When a minister changes denominations after his ordination, he is handicapped, and he often fails to enter into the spirit of the organization because of his lack of background.

You expressed some longings as to faith in the Son of God as your personal Saviour. Because of your personality you have been able to do some good, but you yourself are not enough. It has been said that a person cannot give another the measles unless he has them. Our people need God and need Salvation. My prayer is that in the near future you can honestly answer anyone who asks you as to your personal salvation. Christian nurture depends on your experience with the Living God. Seek to let the Bible become the Word of God to you. I have heard some business men state that we need missionaries who believe in the Bible and will preach Christian doctrine as well as endeavor to better social conditions.

May God bless and lead you as you go forward in your preparation for service. Sincerely,

Rudolph F. Peterson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 7th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: HYDABURG MANSE

August 9th Miss Hopp wrote that a grant of $100 might be secured for repairs to the Hydaburg manse.

The Hydaburg Manse has been neglected on account of non-use during the past year and the part time use the previous two or three years. Rev. and Mrs. Swanson will be moving to Hydaburg as of October 1st. They will do their best to make the $100 cover the outlay for materials which are necessary to make the building habitable for the winter. The grant is absolutely necessary.

The kitchen range is an old wood or coal burner. The Swansons know the condition of that old range, and Mr. Swanson has written that they must have an oil range on account of the condition of the stove and the difficulty of securing good wood. He asked me to purchase an oil burning range for him. He advanced the money. He hopes that the Board will be able to refund that outlay to him. With the aid of a contribution by a friendly dealer I purchased a first class range, just what the Swansons have been using in their own home, freight paid for a net sum of $110.00.

I hope that you may make a special of that $110.00 and secure the refund for Mr. Swanson. It was necessary to place the order so that shipment could be made before the expected marine strike takes effect.

We plan for the M/s Princeton to move the Swansons and their belongings from Petersburg to Hydaburg. Therefore there will be no freight bill.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

Sept.
11th
1939

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Thank you for your letter of September 5th with a copy of the National Missions Committee letter. I hope you will be patient with me as I try to orient my life in the office and in the work of directing the activities on the field. You can appreciate the difficulties involved. It will be much better for us to move carefully and cautiously rather than to plunge in and make a multitude of mistakes.

In regard to Rev. Jackson L. Webster for the Juneau church, I suggest that we mark time for the present. It will not be good to let the church remain vacant long, but it will be better to let the church remain vacant for a while rather than place the wrong man in the field. I cannot commit myself as yet, but I assure you that we can and will reach a definite decision before the work suffers.

Please feel perfectly free to send me any and all suggestions that you think will be helpful.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

Sept.
12th
1939

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Will you please send me by return mail the following information with reference to our mission boat, "Princeton":-

1. Weight, in tons.
2. Length
3. Depth (water line)
4. Heighth

If at all possible, I should also like to have any architectural plans of the boat that may be available. We do not seem to have any records of this kind here in the office.

I learned through Mr. Tribus today that if the "Princeton" is sixty-five feet or more in length, it will be necessary for us to make extensive repairs and improvements in order to qualify for the certificate of inspection which the Government requires of boats of this size. I shall therefore appreciate the above information at the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely yours,

BH

Sept.
14th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Miss Hopp has carefully explained to me the correspondence and plans relative to the Saxman church. My understanding is that our Board has agreed to transfer the property with the assurance that ecclesiastical control will be maintained or continued by the Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Alaska.

Now in your letter of September 6th you state that it is your conclusion that the property ought not to be transferred until definite assurance is made that the Government will remodel the building and place the church in a sightly condition. I am in perfect accord with your conclusion. Therefore, if and when you secure the agreement from the Government to place the church in proper condition, then we will prepare and send the necessary papers for the transfer. Until we receive this definite word, we shall let the matter stand as it is.

I am sending out an Inventory Sheet to all the workers in Alaska. I am extremely anxious to have these sheets accurately and completely filled out. We are desperately in need of this information in our office. Whenever you have the opportunity, please say that this is an urgent matter and that I am going to continue with it until the inventory is complete.

What time of the year would you suggest being the best time for me to come to Alaska? How long would it take me to visit all of the fields without being in too great a hurry? I would like your judgment about these questions.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

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REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
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JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
September 14th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: OLD JUNEAU NATIVE CHURCH BUILDING

The National Missions Committee has been given to understand that the old Juneau Native Church Building which is no longer used since the occupation of the new church building, now known as the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Juneau, has a rental value for work by the Indian Office of the Department of Interior.

I have been informed that we could rent that building as it is to the Office of Indian Affairs for about $20 a month. It seems that the location is such that they would like to use it for shop work among the Indians.

That income would likely last for some time, and the property could be sold when the government no longer is interested in renting. The sale value of the building is about $300. An Indian would like to secure it for about $200, but we see no reason for selling it at that figure.

My recommendation would be that you allow us to rent the property to the Office of Indian Affairs for what we can get and then allow that sum of money to be used to assist in the running expenses of the new program of the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Juneau. The Memorial Presbyterian Church, an Indian Church, cannot put on a seven day a week program without some financial assistance. That amount per month would be of real help.

Now that the Board has such a wonderful plant as the Memorial Presbyterian Church we should see that it is properly manned and financed. A $300 property which will bring about $20 a month rent is surely worth keeping for the time being, especially when that amount is very necessary in the operation of the new Indian Church.

Would like to have your response to this at your earliest convenience as we believe the Office of Indian Affairs would like to know soon.

Sincerely,
Russell F. Pederson
Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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REV DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 15th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: M/S PRINCETON TRACTS & MAGAZINES

The M/s Princeton was in port yesterday, and in going over matters with Captain Falconer, I noted the lack of tracts and so on. Mr. Falconer said that there were but a few soiled copies of tracts on hand. I would like to suggest that the following supplies be secured for display and distribution on the M/s Princeton.

First: a supply of the penny Gospels such as Matthew and John for the missionary to give out at camps and distant homes. 100 copies of John and 100 of Matthew would be practical.

Second: that you have the department of evangelism send an assortment of the tracts which they think should be on the Princeton as the evangel ship of the Board of National Missions.

Third: that the Presbyterian papers send a regular subscription for the Princeton. The skipper and the missionary can keep them on display and from time to time give a copy away. Would like to see "~~Social Progress~~"
"Five Continents"
"Missionary Mail"
"Women and Missions"
"Forward, Queens' Gardens, Pioneer, Stories"
"~~Presbyterian Tribune~~"
Any other particularly Presbyterian papers.
"Today"

I believe that "Women & Missions" was being sent to Rev. Verne J. Swanson for the Princeton. That should be changed since Mr. Swanson is no longer on the boat.

If you had those publications addressed:
M/s Princeton
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska, I will see that they are put on board the Princeton each time she comes to port.

Mail such as letters, papers, and boxes should all be sent to Wrangell, as we are making this the home port.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
Sept 15 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: WRANGELL MONTHLY NARRATIVE

The first eight days of the past month Mrs. Pederson carried the Wrangell program while I accompanied the California tour on a visit to Metlakatla, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Haines, Skagway, Sitka, and a number of canneries. These stops gave me opportunity to confer with the missionaries at each of the churches and go over some plans for the year. On board the ship we were permitted to have several gatherings for showing of pictures and interpreting of the mission program now in effect. During the longer stop in Juneau I attended a called meeting of Presbytery.

During this month I made but one visit to Wrangell Institute. Most of the sanitarium cases had been dismissed to Juneau or home. We are told that next week the Institute will reopen with some 200 young people of 8th grade through High School standing. We are planning the program for our efforts with that student group which is more than half of Presbyterian preference.

Monday, Sept 4, I spent with Rev. J. L. Webster, Rev. A. D. Swogger, Rev. Donald G. Christiansen, and Captain Falconer working out plans for the operation of the M/s Princeton. To do this work I went with the Princeton to Ketchikan and Metlakatla, and assisted the workers on the boat. Mr. Webster seemed pleased to have me show them how to take care of the student groups.

Yesterday we sent away two of the children who have been members of our Sunday School. Their Thlingit mother died this summer and their Norwegian father said he could not care for them himself. We are grateful for our National Missions Board home, the Haines House, where these poor, mixed-blood children will have an opportunity to live and be given proper discipline. Alaska has so many unfortunate children whose parents are dead or worse than dead through alcohol. Surely our people will awaken from their slumbers. We teach the effects of drinking and the people see the many cases of drunkards, but the saloons keep on getting rich out of the traffic. We are endeavoring to compel the father to do his utmost to contribute the financial support for his children. He has made a start.

We are working on the Everymember Canvas with hopes of sending the Annual Application for National Missions Aid to the Board early next week.

Sincerely,

Russell S. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
Rev. Russell F. Pederson, Ch.
Wrangell, Alaska
United Promotions
Rev. Russell F. Pederson, Ch.
Wrangell, Alaska
Foreign Missions
Rev. Donald G. Christiansen, Ch.
Ketchikan, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

Christian Education
Mr. W. Leslie Yaw, Ch.
Sitka, Alaska
Pensions
Rev. David Waggoner, Ch.
Juneau, Alaska
Stated Clerk
Rev. David Waggoner,
Box 1431, Juneau, Alaska

Box 275
Wrangell
September 18th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: PRESBYTERIAN RESPONSIBILITY WRANGELL INSTITUTE

Yesterday I had a challenge and inspiration in my visit to the government Indian School, Wrangell Institute, five miles out of Wrangell. There are on the campus some 130 to 135 young people. More than 200 applications have been received so the staff expects that the school will have nearly 200 young people in attendance this winter.

Wrangell Institute will have 50% more students than the Sheldon Jackson School. We are thankful for the efficient and Christian workers at the Sheldon Jackson School, but we do wish that we had some like them at Wrangell Institute. The Presbyterian Church is meeting her responsibility to the young people enrolled at Sheldon Jackson School. In Wrangell Institute we have a greater responsibility.

More than half of the students at Wrangell Institute come from Presbyterian homes. Last year I had as many as 80 in the one Bible class which we are permitted to hold on the campus. You can readily recognize that it is almost impossible to accomplish a program with that many students in a 45 minute period. The balance of the students are divided among Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Salvation Army workers who are competitive in spirit and activity. I am finding it very difficult to hold our young people with the other denominations each working with smaller groups which are welcoming our young people.

This may not appear serious to you but it does to me because these young people are from the communities where we have Presbyterian Churches. If those young people are turned from their church while away from home, they will not grow to be helpers or leaders in their village churches.

We cannot blame the government if our young people turn to another church while they attend the government school. We must give the students enough attention to hold their interest and a program of development for their age. For one missionary to accomplish that in connection with a multitude of other responsibilities is too much.

The Presbyterian Church must do one of two things at once: Provide a Christian worker whose first responsibility will be for the Presbyterian young people at the Institute and may give some leadership in town. That worker to be assisted by the missionary in the church at Wrangell. A substitute ~~for~~ for this year would be to authorize me to secure a part time

worker who could go with me to teach a half of the group which will be turning out for the Bible class Tuesday nights.

The superintendent told me last year that under the pressure of their program they could not allow us to take half our group at one time and the other at a later hour. We must ~~accomplish~~ wish our classes in religious leadership at the hour set aside for the various churches to do that sort of work.

A full time worker for the Presbyterian young people at Wrangell Institute will not find openings at once, but the right kind of a missionary worker will secure openings and opportunities.

At this time I do not know whom I might be able to secure as a part time worker. If such has to be the manner of meeting the responsibility, the Board should make available a sum between $75 and $100, for the winter.

Please give this your earliest consideration, and I would suggest that you go over this with Miss Voss who is familiar with the situation with students at the Sheldon Jackson School.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Anderson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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Wrangell, Alaska
UNITED PROMOTIONS
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Wrangell, Alaska
FOREIGN MISSIONS
Rev. Donald G. Christiansen, Ch.
Ketchikan, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Mr. W. Leslie Yaw, Ch
Sitka, Alaska
PENSIONS
Rev. David Waggoner, Ch.
Juneau, Alaska
STATED CLERK
Rev. David Waggoner
Box 1421, Juneau, Alaska
Box 275
Wrangell

Sept 19th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find the reports of Rev. Donald G. Christiansen of Ketchikan and of Captain John G. Falconer of the M/s Princeton.

Are you satisfied with Mr. Christiansen's "numerous" on his report? He will take a reminder from you with better grace than from me. He made no comment on the Saxman Church which is his responsibility.

Captain Falconer is not a writer. He has been busy with the operation of the M/s Princeton and has left the narrative to the boat missionary accompanying him. I expect that Mr. Webster will include a narrative with his report. The past month the Princeton has had interesting work. Aug 17, the Princeton took Rev. E. E. Bromley to Juneau for a major operation. August 23rd, the Princeton carried fourteen of the Haines House children to Juneau for medical attention at the Government Hospital. The 24th, Captain Falconer was called to give assistance to the wrecked trolling boat of Frank Price of Sitka. With the use of the lifting gear of the boat "S.J.S" the boat was raised and brought into Sitka. The first eight days of September the Princeton was used to carry two student groups to the Sheldon Jackson School. The first group of 31 boys and girls was taken aboard at Metlakatla, Ketchikan and Wrangell. The second group of 30 was from Hydaburg, Craig and Klawock. On account of the limited accommodations a seine boat took nine more students from Klawock. Sept 12th, the Princeton returned Rev. and Mrs. E. E. Bromley from Juneau to Hoonah. Mr. Bromley wrote that day: "Am feeling better each day. I expect to begin my services and pastoral work right away, but I will not be able to do any work for a long while. I think Eugene (his son) will be here to do what work is necessary until the first of the year." The Princeton has been sent to Ketchikan in order that Rev. Christiansen may use the ship to reach some families out on the islands, go over to the Kasaan field for some services, and if possible make a trip to Kake.

Sincerely,

Russell Pederson

Sept.
20th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am glad to report to you that the Board has approved the grant of $100 to cover the cost of materials to repair the Hydaburg manse. Mr. Swanson can therefore proceed with the necessary repairs and submit the bills in the proper order and they will be cared for.

In regard to the kitchen range which you purchased at the net sum of $110, I will have to submit this to the Board at its next meeting.

I am glad that everything is moving along well for the Swansons in their new endeavor.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 22, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letter of the 14th received this morning.

Miss Hopp has likely informed you that I have been trying to get the workers in Alaska Presbytery to supply me with a complete inventory of the equipment in the Alaska Churches and Manses. My idea is to have this in case of fire loss or for use in acquainting new workers with furnishings. I will be asking for a carbon copy for my file.

My judgment is that your visit should come in connection with the spring meeting of Presbytery about the first of April. A visit made in late fall, winter or spring will find the people in the several villages.

Haines, Klukwan and Skagway are the fields which it would not be wise to endeavor to visit with the Princeton during the months of December and January. Even February may be bad on Lynn Canal, the ocean inlet on which you travel to those three towns. The steamers go to those ports the year around.

November is an excellent month to travel, and your visit would find people in their villages. If you can come that soon, I surely would like to see you in Alaska in November. Otherwise your best travel days would be around the time of Presbytery.

With weather permitting travel day and night, you could cover Alaska Presbytery in twenty days, having a part of a day and the evening at each field with an additional day in Juneau and Sitka, and a day for emergencies. My recommendation is that you figure on three weeks for Alaska Presbytery. Some of the presbyters believe you should spend thirty days to allow more leisurely travel.

Please give the Klawock-Craig field your immediate attention. That field has been vacant since the last of May, and the Roman Catholic priests are taking advantage of our lack of attention. We do pray that this most urgent call for a strong missionary and wife may soon be heeded. It is a difficult field, spiritually and physically. Dr. Thorne can tell you something about the situation as he pictured it.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1431, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 22, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letter of September 11th. Mrs. Pederson and I have been thinking and praying about the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Juneau.

Since there seems to be a strained feeling between almost every minister in the Presbytery and the pastor of the Northern Light Presbyterian Church in Juneau, we wonder whether the Board might not be doing well to locate a well qualified minister and wife in the States to send to Juneau. They could enter the field without any prejudice.

Have been informed that Mrs. Walter Soboleff has active tuberculosis. That will likely delay the return of Walter Soboleff to Alaska. Mrs. Soboleff is a fine young woman and she should be given every opportunity to win her fight against disease.

Since Rev. Jackson L. Webster has expressed his desire to leave Sitka, yet stay in Alaska, why not offer him the suggestion of a good opportunity in Wrangell. He has demonstrated his ability with the student group at Sheldon Jackson School, and Wrangell Institute furnishes a larger student contact. He an excellent preacher and hard worker. We believe that Rev. and Mrs. Webster would be first class missionaries for the Wrangell field. Should you offer him the Wrangell field, he would take more kindly the disappointment at not being offered the Juneau Memorial field.

The Pedersons have been in Wrangell a little over nine years. They have expressed their hope for a furlough, have had one real furlough in their sixteen years of service in Alaska Presbytery. Eleven years ago the family was south for 3½ months. During the past eleven years I had a three months absence while Mrs. Pederson took charge of the services, put on a Vacation Bible School, and did other active ministry. We would like to have a furlough to begin about August 16th, 1940. That date would allow us time to make adjustments for the children to attend school. I would plan on study for myself. We are not anxious as to what will happen to us.

Perhaps you will have some opening for us after the furlough. If you do not have a field where our children can secure educational opportunities, possibly something else will open for us.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Sept.
23rd
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am glad to report to you that our Princeton boat can be used as it now is without any additional equipment or repairs. However, the Government is demanding that no fees which might be interpreted as fares collected for transportation can be imposed.

I have written Mr. Falconer in detail regarding this matter, as you will see by the enclosed copy of my letter. I am going to count on you to see that he complies with these instructions.

Cordially yours,

BH

Sept.
23rd
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am glad to be able to report to you that the following repair grants which were recommended at the Spring meeting of the Presbytery of Alaska, have been approved by the Board:-

Hydaburg - repairs to sidewalk and steps, fire-place, ceiling, roof and kitchen floor of manse.....$100.00

Haines - painting bath and kitchen of manse..... 32.00

Hoonah - re-shingling one side of church roof..... 25.00

Sitka - manse roof repairs..... 25.00

Wrangell - manse roof repairs..... 25.00

Will you, therefore, inform the respective missionaries that they are free to proceed with the work at any time, sending in the bills to this office in the usual way for payment?

The Board will be considering new repairs at the November meeting. If there are any repairs or replacements necessary in Alaska Presbytery, in addition to the above, I think you had better send me the list so that it may receive consideration along with the requests of other fields at that meeting.

Cordially yours,

BH

Sept.
23rd
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Do you think it would be possible for you or Mr. Falconer to make a trip to Craig and Klawock some time in the near future for the purpose of obtaining the information called for in the attached Inventory Sheet? I am anxious to have this information for each one of our Alaska fields as soon as possible.

Cordially yours,

BH

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REV. DAVID WAGGONER
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 25, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

It seemed to me wise to forward the following paragraph which came to me on the last mail boat from Rev. E. R. Bromley, member of the National Missions Committee of the Presbytery of Alaska:

"The only change that needs consideration at this time is Websters move to the Juneau Memorial Church. If you are still waiting for word from the members of the Com. I hope you will send in the recommendation at once and get Dr. Kings approval so that Webster can arrange his affairs. It would be best to have Dr. King wire his approval. I do not know how you feel but the rest of the com. have expressed themselves as feeling that Webster should be allowed to go to Juneau. His acquaintance with so many of the people that will be going in and out of Juneau is one fact that will help him in that church."

Perhaps there will be something from Mr. Swogger on this subject on the boat tomorrow. So far I have heard nothing from him in writing as to his judgment.

I know that Mr. Bromley is greatly concerned as to the Juneau Memorial Church because the congregation is all keen for action. He fears that a season without a leader will mean considerable slump, and that the field left vacant will be harmed, even though for a short time.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

P.S.
Referring to my letter of Sept 18 on Presbyterian Responsibility at Wrangell Institute, I wish to let you know that the Superintendent has consented to let us divide our classes and have two periods, one for the girls at 6:45 p.m., and the other for the boys at 7:30. This arrangement will mean much more satisfactory classes, and I think that I can handle the students responding.

We are arranging Sunday afternoon song gatherings on the campus. If your department wishes to furnish us with 40 copies of the small "Praise and Service" hymnals with responsive readings, they would supplement our present supply and be of real use.

R.F.P.

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 26/39

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Have signed the enclosed monthly report blank which is practically a blank because Mr. Bromley has been unable to do his usual routine of public service. Mrs. Bromley has carried on the work during Mr. Bromley's absence to the hospital. They did not seem to be able to ascertain the cause of the hernia. It was thought as likely happening at the time of the explosion of the boat, "A.L.Lindsley."

Today I received letters from Layworkers Samuel G. Johnson and George R. Betts.

Layworker Betts wrote that he will take up the work at Angoon as of October 1st. Mr. Betts always has a good Week Day Bible School. He requests some material for the school. He will likely have 2nd to 6th graders of Thlingit children in his school.

Layworker Johnson does not expect to be at Kake by October 1st, but will begin work on the field as soon as the fall season of fishing closes.

The fishermen made very small earnings this summer. Mr. Johnson reports that he did not make expenses with the summer fishing. I heard that Mr. Betts cleared $60 for his summer's work.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 26, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Unit Alaska Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: WEBSTER AND JUNEAU MEMORIAL CHURCH

This morning I received the following from Rev. A. D. Swogger who is a member of the National Missions Committee of our Presbytery:

"Regarding Websters going to Juneau, if there is no one else in the Field, I think we had better send him. No doubt a young man might be better!!! But where are going to get the young man of experience? The person going into that Field should be all means be familiar with the set up in the town, including the White Church. So I say send Webster to Juneau."

Now, Dr. King, you have received the recommendations from the members of the National Missions Committee of Alaska Presbytery. Mr. Swogger and Mr. Bromley think that Websters are the missionaries for the Juneau Memorial Church. Mr. Webster who is a member of the National Missions Committee believes there is a challenge for him at Juneau, and he wishes to serve that field. Elder Price of Sitka has not expressed himself to me. Mr. Price is the layman on the N. M. Committee. As for myself personally, I have written you that we know that Websters are able and strong workers. Furthermore they have had a contact with many of the young people who live in Juneau and will be coming and going in connection with the Indian life of Southeastern Alaska.

Mr. Webster has recognized that it will not be altogether easy to avoid misunderstandings with Rev. Mr. Glasse of the Northern Light Church. He does believe that there is no ill will among the congregation and officers of the Northern Light Church toward the Indian Church. He thinks the problem is with Mr. Glasse. He is prepared to enter that field determined that by the Grace of God he will not allow himself to be drawn into conflict with a fellow presbyter.

We have been studying the situation, and we can hardly visualize the finding of a better qualified and experienced minister for the Juneau Memorial Church. Mr. Webster would go to that field knowing the dangers.

Unless you have a wonderful man and wife to recommend for the Juneau Memorial, I believe the N. M. Committee will continue to recommend the transfer of the Websters from Sitka to Juneau Memorial. Lack of funds need not delay action. Sitka can much better be vacant than the Juneau Memorial. Sheldon Jackson staff members will carry on in Sitka. The Juneau Memorial Church will be closed until a minister arrives.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Sept.
28th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have checked through your suggestions for Princeton repairs and improvements. Of course it will be absolutely necessary for you to submit very definite specifications in order that we in turn can submit these to the Board.

I hope you will bear in mind that we are not in a position to do everything that we would like to do. We must confine the repairs and improvements to that which is necessary. If we had the money available we could take another course. I am sure you understand this position.

In regard to the old Juneau Native church building, I suggest that you rent the building to the Office of Indian Affairs for $20 a month, with a proviso that the Office of Indian Affairs be held responsible for the upkeep and repairs on the building during the time of their occupancy.

In regard to the full-time worker for the Presbyterian young people at Wrangell Institute, I will wait until you have something more definite to present. We will do our best to secure the available sum of $75 to $100 for the winter. Let me know when your plans are materialized.

****

Several persons have recommended Rev. Mr. Webster to succeed Mr. Waggoner in charge of the Juneau Memorial Church. Of course I have not as yet taken any action and will not do so until I have more information. I shall appreciate your sending me a confidential statement as to your opinion of Mr. Webster's ability and fitness for this work.

****

In accordance with your letter of September 15th, we are sending you a supply of the penny Gospels of John and Matthew, and also of tracts published by our Unit of Evangelism. In addition I am endeavoring to secure donations of subscriptions to the magazines you listed for display and distribution by the Princeton.

Cordially yours,

EBK: BH

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BOX 1431, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Oct 3rd 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find bills submitted by Mr. Falconer for maintenance of the M/s Princeton. I appreciated receiving the copy of your letter addressed to Mr. Falconer, Sept 23rd. For me to have a copy of each letter addressed to Mr. Falconer is good practice because he should keep in mind that he is directly responsible to the National Missions Committee of the Presbytery of Alaska. One of our problems with earlier operators was that of overlooking our Committee responsibility. Dr. Thorndike informed Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Swanson in their days that the Princeton is under direction of the Committee, and that everything should be reported to the Chairman. I hope that Mr. Falconer will carry out your instructions so that there may be no trouble with any of the Governmental agencies.

Rev. Verne J. Swanson sent me the enclosed salary voucher with the request that it be forwarded to you at once. He states that he has had to borrow money, and will appreciate receiving his October salary at the same time the other missionaries receive theirs. I was hoping that the Swansons would be in Hydaburg in time to make a good start with a World Wide Communion Service, October 1st. I have not heard definitely as to their time of arrival at the field. This salary voucher is made out for $112.08, with the understanding that the Swansons will endeavor to raise the $15.00 on the Hydaburg field to bring their total to $127.08 per month.

Did you send Mr. Swanson the monthly report blanks? Have you sent Mr. Swanson the "Application for National Missions Aid" for the Hydaburg field? When you send him the inventory blanks, please send him two with the instruction to mail me a carbon copy for the N. M. Committee files.

Last summer I had Rev. Mr. Bromley inventory the Klawock Manse and Church property. Will fill out the blank for Klawock from the information submitted by Mr. Bromley, and enclose it herewith.

I expect that Rev. A. D. Swogger will make a call at Craig about the 3rd week in October, and will ask him to make inventory at that time. For your information I will add that the Craig Manse is not owned by the Board, and there are no furnishings therein other than the sink and bathroom equipment. The Craig Church has a good lot of pews, pulpit, bell and a very few hymnals. The property is badly run down.

We are praying that you may soon find a good missionary couple to recommend for the Klawock-Craig field. The situation is growing worse rapidly on those fields. Sincerely, Russell F Pederson

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JUNEAU, ALASKA
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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
October 5, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: HOONAH APPLICATION FOR N M AID

Herewith you will find the application for National Missions Aid submitted by the Rev. E. E. Bromley for the Hoonah field.

You will note that the application is somewhat incomplete. Am forwarding this application to you without asking Mr. Bromley to do it over. Some of my reasons are:

1. Mr. Bromley is a much older man in years of service as well as age, and he feels that I am just a missionary as he is.
2. Reports and paper work have been a problem to Mr. Bromley. You can see that from all his years' of reports.
3. He is a member of the National Missions Committee, and will take criticism from you better than from me.
4. The Hoonah Presbyterian Church is a difficult Indian field.
5. It would not be practical for me to make a trip to Hoonah at this time, and I wonder whether it would be possible for any member of the committee to assist him without hurting his feelings.

You will note that he has stated that the salary from the Board during the past year was $1,450.00, and he is requesting that the grant for the present year be the same amount of $1,450.00. The amount budgeted last year and this year for the Hoonah field for salary of Mr. Bromley was $1,525.00.

Mr. Bromley seldom places the amount of salary in his voucher. Under the circumstances what amount of salary will he be receiving?

Although the Presbytery recommendation was for $1,525.00 in the April 1939 meeting, it seemed to me that the Committee recommendation should be the same as the Church application. Perhaps the Board can best say what is right.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

There is much more to say when we meet face to face to discuss this field of Hoonah

P R E S B Y T E R Y O F A L A S K A

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
Oct 6, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Am pleased to be able to inform you that we are getting some extension work accomplished. Have not heard what Mr. Christiansen did while he had the use of the Princeton, but Rev. A. D. Swogger was in port today on the Princeton, and he seems to have made a very goqd contact at the village of Kasaan.

Kasaan is a small Indian village(Hyda) about 40 miles from Metlakatla. They have 26 children under 10 years of age with 14 in school. Mr. Swogger found that the school teacher is willing and able to help with some Christian instruction. We wish that you would have a grant made to that group for they wish to start a Sunday School. Mr. Swogger has everything prepared except supplies:

The following would be adequate:
5 Beginner's Year #12 Church School Leaflets
1 Beginner's Teacher's Quarterly
4 Junior Uniform Lesson Quarterlies
5 Stories
3 Queens' Gardens
3 Pioneers

The above material should be sent to:
The Secretary - - C/o Mr. Benjamin Moreland
Presby. Sunday School School Teacher
Kasaan, Alaska

Mr. Swogger went on to Kake to prepare for a Communion Service in that village next Sunday. Monday or Tuesday he will have a Communion Service at Angoon, and the following day he is scheduled to meet with the children of Tennakee to organize a new Sunday School. The school teacher has expressed his willingness to assist.

We feel that the Princeton is being used to accomplish some much worthwhile work this fall and winter. Taking turns is not easy, but there is enthusiasm.

We hope your office has forwarded some Week Day Bible supplies to Layworker George R. Betts, Angoon.

Mr. Swogger and I are much concerned about Klawock-Craig. Those people need a pastor. Not only is evil flourishing, but the people with Christian inclination are getting discouraged because the Presbyterian Church is giving no leadership. The field is too far away for us to go out to accomplish results. The longer the field waits for Christian leadership the harder it will be for the workers to reach the people. Moreover the later in the winter the more disagreeable the weather, and it is rough in mid-winter.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Hudson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 10, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Mr. King: CONFIDENTIAL -- WEBSTER AND JUNEAU MEMORIAL

In your letter of Sept 28 you have requested me to write you a confidential statement as to my opinion of Mr. Webster's ability and fitness for the Juneau Memorial field.

In my letter of the 26th of Sept I wrote: "We can hardly visualize the finding of a better qualified and experienced minister for the Juneau Memorial Church."

Websters have had eleven years pastorate in Sitka. He has proven himself an able preacher and evangelist. He is well acquainted with the young people who have attended Sheldon Jackson School. Juneau has many Sheldon Jackson young people. Juneau is a center visited by the Indian people of Southeastern Alaska, and that acquaintance will help Mr. Webster to reach the most difficult to contact, the older young people.

Though Mr. Webster made his mistakes in Sitka, he is a much more mature person now. He recognizes that he has not always used tact.

I believe that Websters can give leadership and bring the Juneau Memorial Church to such an organization that they soon will be at least partially self supporting.

I think that Mr. Webster will take counsel along the line of avoiding conflict with the pastor of the Northern Light Church. He should be instructed as to the desire of the Board of National Missions that the Northern Light Presbyterian Church should continue to be recognized in all its importance.

The "Race" problem in Alaska meets each Christian worker. We find the situation growing more and more difficult. The mixed marriages in all communities perplex some people. We can understand the Whites questioning social relationships.

Surely there is a place for a Church ministering to the Indians and the mixed-blood people. We can hope and pray that Websters would work satisfactorily with that group. It will be no easier for missionaries who have less understanding of actual conditions.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 10th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find a couple of snapshots.

The enclosed snapshot of Brig J. T. Gillingham of the Salvation Army, Rev. Arnold Krone of the Episcopal Church, and myself was taken a few days ago when the three of us had a conference on activities at Wrangell Institute. We have arranged to supply chapel services at the Institute, and to urge all students to attend the meetings we are providing. Each takes a turn once in three weeks on Sunday morning. Tuesday evenings we have Bible classes. We are cooperating though each is primarily working with his own denominational group.

The three Indian(Thlingit) children are members of our Sunday School. Margaret and Harriet have had perfect attendance during the past year and Amelia is just starting. These children are worth a sacrifice. Their mother tries so hard to keep her children clean and fed although she has trials difficult enough to down most anyone.

Sincerely,

Russell Henderson

Dr. King:

Last year the Presbytery of Alaska had the use of six films:"Beneath the Artic Circle"
"The Road to Oregon"
"Hearthstones and Altars"
"Where East and West Meet"
"Our Church in Our Day"
"Thru a Vacation ~~&~~ Church Door"

If it is possible for our Presbytery to secure some more National Mission film for use in the Presbytery, we would like very much to have arrangements made by your office. Several of us have 16mm projectors. Therefore the film only will be needed. ~~EXCEPT~~ Skagway, Hydaburg and Hoonah missionaries do not have projectors.

Sincerely,

Russell Henderson

(1) Pederson, Frank (Pyot), Gillingham (Sk)
(2) = Sunday School girls

with Russell Pederson, Oct 10, 1938

Left to right:

Rev Kenneth F Robertson, Pres.

Rev. Arnold Thone, Episcopal

Brigadier J. J Sellingham of

Salvation Army

Wrangell, Alaska

Margaret, Harriet
and Amelia George
have good records
for Sunday School
attendance

Wrangell, Alaska,
Presbyterian Sunday School

Copy for the King:

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 9th 1939

The Clerk of the Session
Presbyterian Church
Klukwan, Alaska
C/o Rev. Ralph K. Wheeler

Brethern:

Rev. Ralph K. Wheeler wrote that your congregation would like to have Mr. George R. Betts for a layworker.

Mr. George R. Betts is serving as layworker in Angoon, and will be with that community until next summer at least.

We wish that it were possible to assist Klukwan with a layworker, but at the present time it is not possible. The budget allowed for Alaska Presbytery is not large enough to provide a leader for each field. Each of the missionaries is assisting other fields than the one on which he lives.

We must request Rev. Mr. Wheeler to do his best for Klukwan while he serves Haines. We know that Mr. Wheeler has the spiritual welfare of each of you on his heart and mind. He will assist the Elders, Sunday School Teachers and Christian Endeavor leaders in preparation for the many helpful meetings which you will be having this winter. We think that Haines and Klukwan are fortunate in having a worker who is always trying to do his utmost.

We are not asking Mr. Wheeler to go out on the M/s Princeton for missionary service this winter because he has so much to do at Haines and Klukwan. We suppose that you have heard that we do not have a regular boat missionary on the Princeton this winter. We did not have the money for salary for such a worker. During October Rev. Mr. Swogger is leaving Metlakatla for a month of missionary work with the Princeton. During November we expect Rev. Mr. Webster to work among several of the villages. In December I am expected to visit several of the churches down this way in addition to serving Wrangell and the young people at Wrangell Institute. In January we hope Rev. Mr. Knudsen may be away from Skagway for a month of boat missionary work.

You can see that we are trying hard to do the best we can with the workers available, and we hope you will unite with us in our prayer that spiritual advance may be made this winter.

May God bless each one of you faithful Elders, and give you wisdom and joy as you help others to become Christians and grow in faith.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Oct.
10th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letters of September 26th and 29th which have arrived during Dr. King's absence from the office on an extended field itineration. I shall bring them to his attention upon his return the latter part of the month.

In the meantime I am docketing Mr. Betts for salary at the rate of $62.50 per month beginning October 1st, in serving the Angoon field. I am under the impression that Mr. Betts will give eight months to the work this year. Am I correct in this understanding?

We shall not docket Mr. Johnson until you advise us of the definite date he will begin his work.

Dr. King has several candidates under consideration for the Juneau field, I believe. However, I am sure he will give the recommendation of National Missions Committee regarding Mr. Webster due thought and will advise you of his decision upon his return to the office.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

BH

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 16th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find Rev. C. A. Bromley's monthly report and voucher. In signing this report, I am indicating that I believe that Rev. Mr. Bromley is at Hoonah, and that he is trying to do his missionary work.

It does seem to me that he could make out a more complete report. If the report actually covers all his activities, he is not doing much. Perhaps his operation has left him unable to accomplish very much. He has not included a narrative or letter of any kind to accompany the report. I know that Dr. Somerndike sent him the request for fuller reports. Perhaps a request from you would help.

Mr. Bromley sent along an inventory sheet nicely filled out, but not signed. Therefore I mailed back the inventory with request that he sign it and forward it to you as soon as possible. He sent me a copy for the N. M. Committee file.

Hoonah is the largest Indian village in the Presbytery and should be a real opportunity for missionary work. The Salvation Army and Greek Orthodox church have occasional services, but they give little real competition.

Tonight I heard that the Princeton was in a blinding snow storm and heavy wind when she struck Little Island in Lynn Canal. There is a regular gale striking Wrangell tonight. I fear that the Princeton will be a total loss unless the salvage boat was able to raise her yesterday or early this morning. We are watching for news, and will forward same to you at the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Robinson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 16, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Yesterday I sent you the message: WEATHER VERY CHANGEABLE PERIOD COAST CURED WITH GEAR LEFT JUNEAU LAST NIGHT ATTORNEY RAISE PRINCETON PERIOD CAPTAIN JENNINGS STARTED FOR KETCH THIS MORNING.

Thursday night when the Princeton was wrecked a strong wind was blowing. Fishermen tell me that they did not realize how bad conditions were until they were being tossed by the seas. Many fine boats went to harbor. The Princeton was on Lynn Canal between Haines and Juneau. Rev. Swogger had gone with Captain Falconer to do regular missionary work and at the same time take some children to Haines House. They were travelling through the night so that Mr. Swogger could have the next day in Juneau to accomplish some business for the Metlakatla field. I have not learned the reason for the wrecking of the boat because there has been no mail from the north since the 12th.

It may be that somebody will be condemning Captain John G. Falconer. Since you are new at headquarters it might be well for you to have the information that Captain Verne J. Swanson had plenty of accidents while he was operating the Princeton. Some of them meant repairs, and with others the ship was fortunate. This is not condemnation of Mr. Swanson but being fair to Falconer.

Two years ago Dr. J. M. Somerndike requested the ministers of Presbytery to meet him in Juneau. Enroute with a large part of Presbytery on the Princeton she was piled up on the rocks. Captain Swanson had not figured on the tidal drift and in the darkness the boat had gotten off the course which had been set too close for safety. The vessel hit the rocks full speed, went over the first boulder patch down into deep water and finally stopped on a second rock pile. Enough men were on board to save the ship as the tide came in. It was a worried crowd because shore could not be sighted, and it was a guess as to how best to get clear. Fortunately the planking was not damaged and the boat righted. For some reason Dr. Somerndike decided not to visit mission stations with the use of the Princeton although it was expected that he would do so that year.

When Dr. Paul Calhoun visited Alaska in 1936, Mr. Swanson was operating the Princeton. Mrs. Pederson accompanied the party. In broad daylight and perfect calm the Princeton hit a reef, and they were some three hours on the rocks before the tide floated the boat. Calhouns were some frightened. Again the planking and keel withstood the grounding. Otherwise the Calhouns might have been sitting on an island as did the party this time.

Waggoner had his troubles. Swanson had plenty more than the two suggested above, and his wife was thankful they could get settled on land. Other mission boards are having theirs such as the Methodist with the loss of their fine craft this summer. Boating in Alaska is

difficult,
and we are thankful that no life has been lost in connection with our mission boats. Many nights I have wondered where the Princeton and the Lindsley were. Two years I purchased a special radio so that I might listen for the report which the Princeton was supposed to give to the central radio phone station each night. We have been relieved when we could hear WXA JUNEAU talking with WOFT the M.s PRINCETON.

The mission boats are not the only ones having trouble. One of the Wrangell salmon canneries lost two seine boats this summer. A large tender was lost by the New England Fish Company between Klawock and Wrangell. Several trollers have been lost with loss of life.

We need the Princeton. During the next few months while the Princeton is being rebuilt, I wonder how we are going to reach the isolated places where we have missionary responsibility.

I hope that work on the Princeton may be started right away so that she may soon be in service again. If we cannot have the Princeton, some arrangements should be authorized for charter of craft with which to make the necessary trips.

The members of Presbytery will be wondering how we can have a reasonable attendance at Presbytery and Presbyterial without a good boat for transportation.

You will be hearing more later, but I thought the above would be helpful at this time.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Robinson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 16th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: NARRATIVE REPORT WRANGELL FIELD

Mrs. Pederson and I are enjoying our winter opportunities with all the groups.

The Week Day Bible Classes are responding nicely. Mrs. Pederson has ten who come to the house each Monday Afternoon for their study. My group numbers from six to sixteen. They are actually studying and making progress.

The Friendly Bible Class which started last spring with a group of the younger married women has resumed meetings. They have changed their name to the "PROGRESSIVE CLUB" with the hope of persuading more of the women to recognize the place of the Bible in progress and home building. The group has organized with a strong president and a splendid secretary. The husbands will be having their place in meetings about once a month. We are having 50 minutes of Bible study before the social evening.

Monday evenings the high school age boys are using the church parlor. We expect to reach into their life this winter. The boys are starting off with fine spirit.

The Wrangell Institute work has not opened quite as I would like it to develop, but we are given a better opportunity. I am able to work to better advantage this year in that we have a period for the boys and another for the girls. There is not the popular interest, but we accomplish more with the groups which do attend. Sunday morning I had a very nice congregation of about 70 of the Institute young people in a class room worship. Wish we could bring this group to a Communion Service. The young people feel that they are hardly going to church, just to a service in the class rooms they attend all the week.

When I wrote about a helper and the need of a grant for a part time paid worker, we were faced with having but one period on Tuesday evenings. Since we have two periods, I can take out alone. I do not believe that the Presbyterian Church should look into the possibility of placing a worker in the Institute who could give more time without being faced with neglecting Wrangell responsibilities.

This summer and fall have been wet and rough. You can hardly imagine the down pours every day. I know that the folks who spent the 20 hours on the small rock island on Lynn Canal were in bad plight. They were fortunate to have tarpaulin and blankets though no fire or light. Three inches of wet snow made conditions much worse. We expect to see Rev. Mr. Spencer in the morning when the steamer Yukon is in port. Wrangell has had one fall of snow so far.

We are busy and enjoying our opportunities.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 16, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find papers submitted in connection with the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka.

You will note that the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka is assuming a larger responsibility of self support. They are pledging $40 instead of $35 a month and asking the Board for a smaller sum for pastor's salary. Beginning with October 1st the salary check for Rev. Jackson L. Webster of Sitka will be $87.08 per month.

We are happy to call your attention to the "Objectives and Program" for the coming year. I think that this is the best submitted with an Application from Alaska Presbytery. Sitka is moving forward.

The expense voucher for $26.79 is best explained in Mr. Webster's own words: "When I asked for $25 last spring for roof repairs, I did not realize how bad the condition of our back porch was. I only knew the roof was leaking. Recently we discovered that the floor was sinking because of poor foundation and rotted timbers. It was in dangerous condition. So I got the approval of the session and have started the job of remodelling. It will cost about $180 and the session agreed to pay half. I sent bills to absorb the $25 already granted. We hope to get a grant of $40 more from the Board for lumber and other materials and wages. The manse will also need painting next summer very badly and I figure that will cost about $20 for paint. The church will meet half of that also, leaving $10 for the Board, making a total of fifty dollars more to ask of the Board."

Dr. King, we hope that you may be able to secure an additional grant of $50 for the Sitka Manse. Since the Church is so willingly taking this additional obligation of half the cost as well as making a forward step in salary support, I think we should meet the request as early as possible.

Mr. Webster should be commended for his efforts and success in self support on the part of the Sitka Church.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 23rd, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

This evening Rev. and Mrs. Boyd G. Cubbage paid us a short visit while their steamer was in port. They seem to be fine young people, and they appear to be the kind which should fit into the Anchorage field and Yukon Presbytery. They will have our prayer.

Mrs. Pederson and I thank you for your letter of the 16th on the subject of prayer. Yes, as we use the "Year Book of Prayer," and find our names therein, we recognize that a great fellowship is working. We use the Year Book of Prayer each day, and we have been remembering you and your family in the church prayermeetings as well as in our home devotions.

Captain Jennings conferred with me Saturday evening, the 21st, and he informed me that he had taken over the M/s Princeton which is accepted as a total structural loss. He did not know how much of the equipment could be salvaged. He had made a contract with a Juneau firm to salvage the engine and all other equipment possible.

Rev. John A. Glasse of Juneau had signed papers for Captain Jennings, indicating that he signed them as the Agent of the Board. I understood that Mr. Glasse was present at the hearing given Mr. Falconer by the Steamship Inspectors. He may have sent you a report of that hearing. He has not sent me either a report of the hearing or any information as to what he has signed in connection with the Princeton.

Has Mr. Glasse given you all the information you desire? Do I have any more responsibility with the salvage details or have you or the Board turned them over to Mr. Glasse or someone else?

Did the Board give Rev. Mr. Glasse authority for this special case or has the Board appointed Mr. Glasse as Agent for all properties?

Some years ago the Board requested me to accept the appointment as Agent for the Board residing in the Territory. On my acceptance my appointment was recorded in the Auditor's Office of the Territory of Alaska. I had not been informed of another having been appointed.

Captain Jennings told me that he is certain that the Board could make a good buy in Seattle this winter should the replacement of the M/s Princeton be contemplated. Mr. Gene Gould knows a good deal about boats.

Will you approve the expenditure of Princeton budget funds for travel expense for ministers attempting to serve the fields which are vacant or manned by lay workers?

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
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PRESBYTERY
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MR. W. LESLIE YAW, CH
SITKA, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, CH
JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
October 24th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

The copy of Dr. L. H. Tribus' letter to Mr. Falconer on the subject of "PROTEST" came to me this morning. Have forwarded Mr. Falconer's letter to him at Ketchikan.

I believe that all the equipment belonging to the Princeton was on board the vessel at the time of the disaster.

Captain Jennings informed me that he considered that Mr. Falconer and Mr. Swogger had done all possible to save the ship and assist in salvage. Furthermore Captain Jennings stated that he considered Mr. Falconer a good skipper as well as a strong moral character. Captain Jennings said that the wreck was an accident which might befall any crew, and that Mr. Falconer handled the situation well. I think that a letter from you would do much to help Mr. Falconer. He cannot help being downhearted over the loss of the vessel. He is worthy of our consolation and sympathy.

Mr. Falconer suffered a personal loss of at least $66.25 for clothes and hotel expense of $9.00 in Juneau in connection with investigation and salvaging of Princeton equipment.

I have been informed that it is customary for the crew of a wrecked vessel to receive their pay until they are returned to their home port. Mr. Falconer reached his home port, Oct 22nd.

Mr. Faloncer received personal injury during attempted salvage operations in the breaking of a finger which accident will keep him from manual labor at least a month.

I believe that the following settlement would be satisfactory to Mr. Falconer, and is a just obligation to the Board of National Missions:

October salary $125 & rental allowance $10.-----	$135.00
Nov 1 to 22nd salary & rental allowance --------	99.00
Personal loss & hotel expense----------	75.25
	$309.25

We all feel the blow of the loss of the M/s Princeton, and our prayer is that she may be replaced soon. Such a vessel is essential in the Presbyterian responsibility in Southeastern Alaska.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

P.S. The rental allowance was set as a N.M.Committee recommendation and we understood in correspondence with Miss Hopp would begin with October 1st.

Mr. Falconer lost food supplies which were personal property. He did not speak of them, and I overlooked asking what amount was lost.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER
BOX 1431 JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
October 27, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

This afternoon I received the enclosed letter from Mr. Claude M. Hirst, General Superintendent of Field Service in the Office of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Hirst is a Presbyterian, a member of the Juneau Northern Light Presbyterian Church. He knows Alaska and the difficulty of transportation from village to village. When he states, "It was with deep regret that I learned of the wreck of the MS Princeton. This boat has rendered a very valuable service for the benefit of our native people in Southeast Alaska. I certainly hope a new boat can be secured to carry on the good work of the Princeton," he is expressing nicely the heart of a large number of the Indians and Whites of Alaska.

Some of the National Missions Committee members have written that they believe that we should go to work at once to induce the Board to build a new boat, more perfectly fitted to do the work of the Princeton. The new boat should have more berths, and should meet the requirements of the Steamboat Inspectors so that she could be licensed to carry passengers.

Dr. King, a good boat is an immediate necessity. Unless there is a seaworthy boat available at once Presbyterian missions will suffer. Without a good boat Craig and Klawock, Kake, Angoon, Petersburg, Kasaan, Tennakee, and a number of other places will be deprived of pastoral leadership and Christian nurture. Because the Board did not supply the boat missionary, the missionary pastors were doing their best to serve the churches without either lay or ordained ministers with the use of the Princeton.

I wish you would give me the opportunity to meet with the Board and you to help you visualize the situation in Alaska. The Presbyterian Churches need your immediate action.

The mission fields which have been occupied and built up as Presbyterian centers are verily being raided and swept by the cults and Roman Catholic priests who are about their business. Though you feel the fields are not suffering, we know that Juneau, Klawock and Craig are suffering and the work is being more and more handicapped.

We hope and pray that the next boat may bring mail with the encouragement of information pointing toward appointments of the right men for vacant fields and a replacement of the M/s Princeton.

Sincerely, Russell F. Pederson

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

Juneau, Alaska
October 25, 1939

Rev. Russell Peterson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Peterson:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the wreck of the MS Princeton. This boat has rendered a very valuable service for the benefit of our native people in Southeast Alaska. I certainly hope a new boat can be secured to carry on the good work of the Princeton.

Sincerely yours,

Claude M. Hirst

Claude M. Hirst
General Superintendent

CMH:IH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
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KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Ch.
SEWARD, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Act. Ch.
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell

October 30th, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: EMERGENCY REQUEST--SITKA LAYWORKER

The United States Government in the naval base construction program is making Sitka a busy center with the employment of several hundred men. It is estimated that one thousand new people will be in Sitka this winter. There is no doubt as to the coming of those people. They are being brought from parts of Alaska and from Seattle.

The Presbyterian Church at Sitka requests that the Board of National Missions assist with a Layworker's salary in the employment of an assistant pastor.

The session has recommended Richard Nelson (white) for appointment as assistant pastor. Mr. Nelson has spent several years in Alaska, and is good at personal work among men. He is a consecrated Christian who wishes to serve wherever God can use him. Rev. Jackson L. Webster and Elder Frank Price, members of the Sitka Church Session and members of the National Missions Committee, recommend his appointment, and I believe that Mr. Nelson is a "find." He is in Sitka, and there will be no travel expense with him. He is an able boat-man, and can be used occasionally as a skipper or engineer should the Presbytery be authorized to charter a boat for some necessary work.

The Board in the past has granted $62.50 a month for the salary of layworkers with the expectation that the field would add $10 to make a total of $72.50 per month.

Please give this request and recommendation your early attention and let me know whether you can make this special grant for six months.

Layworker Samuel G. Johnson whom we expected to serve at Kake has requested that the National Missions Committee secure someone else to serve the Kake field. Three members of the N M Committee have recommended Gibson Young to take that field. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Young have served on other fields, and we hope that he may be able to serve the Kake field. Mr. and Mrs. Young are Indian young people with a desire to preach the Gospel. The National Missions Committee is proceeding with the arrangements for Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Young to go to Kake because that field should have been manned before this, and we believe that Mr. Young is the best layworker available for that field.

Please let me have a wire with your approval of the appointment of Mr. Nelson as an additional layworker, and the substitution of Mr. Young for Mr. Johnson at Kake.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV RUSSELL F PEDERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV [illegible] L. WEBSTER, Ch.
[illegible], ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV DONALD G CHRISTIANSEN, Ch.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Ch.
[illegible], ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Ex. Off. Ch.
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell

October 30, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Up to this evening I had not realized the condition of the Manse and Manse furnishings at Kake. That manse has been sadly neglected.

There are several minor repairs as well as much interior refinishing which are absolutely necessary. The kitchen porch floor needs additional joists, the front porch railing needs repair, three window panes must be replaced, the woodwork such as floors, walls and ceiling need painting. The exterior needs paint, but that cannot be touched at this time.

The manse has very little in the way of furnishings, and those in the house are not so good.

There is one iron bedstead with a link fabric spring, but there should be at least one more good bed and spring.

There are six dining room chairs in good condition and a few other chairs so no more straight chairs need be purchased; but the one rocker is in rather poor condition. At least two more rockers or other comfortable chairs should be furnished.

The kitchen range is reported as in good condition with good pipe. The oil burning heater is in first class condition. The upright oval drum wood burning heater in poor condition must have new pipe.

The bathroom fixtures and kitchen sink are in good condition.

There should be $100.00 made available at once for the layworker to use in supplying necessary furnishings and make the needed repairs. He will not be able to go very far with that amount, but he will make an attempt.

Since he will have to depend on a small fishing boat for transportation to the field, he cannot take any good furnishings from his own home without danger of having them spoiled by rain or salt water.

We expect Mr. Gibson Young to be on the field by the 13th of November so please rush the approval of the grant the Board will make for the Kake field. Winter is here, and it is difficult to do good work under handicap of discomfort.

Sincerely,

Russell F Pederson

Russell F Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL P. PETERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
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BROADWAY, ALASKA
PUBLICATIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Act. Ch.
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Nov 4th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: Petersburg field & travel expense account

Last month I had word from the Petersburg Session that they would do their best with church activities although they have no missionary or pastor. They made inquiries concerning Sunday School. Christian Endeavor and Christmas program materials.

Knowing the field and their needs, I believed that as National Missions Committee Chairman I should make a trip over to Petersburg to assist the leaders with their program and help give an impetus to their work.

We had two evening meetings with a nice attendance of 30 and 76. The congregation seemed delighted with my visit and considered it a sign that Presbytery and the Board have not forgotten them.

Some of the older people did feel that they cannot go along without either a layworker or a pastor. I told them that we are willing to do our best for the congregation, but that we cannot locate a layworker on that field this winter.

The congregation which is Indian and oriental is having a difficult time. Financially they are facing real problems. The shrimp cannery on which they have been depending for livelihood is behind in payment for labor, and the cannery is paying two cents a pound less than the companies in other towns.

The first day I used in pastoral visitation. The second in repair and improvement of the church property. We dropped a flag pole which was a hazard to nearby property. We connected up the church to the city sewer which was installed this last summer. Mr. Swanson had started the work, but did not complete it before leaving. The man who took the job of the terrible dirty work in the ditch and under the church while the sleet was falling told me that was his contribution toward the church. I offered to pay him but he was gracious in his gift. It was a real contribution. We disconnected part of the plumbing to remove danger of freezing and consequent flooding.

A white woman with two children had been allowed by Mr. Swanson to occupy two upstairs rooms in the church. The poor woman is earning her living picking shrimp with the Indians and orientals. It is a sad case, a drunken husband has driven her out from their home. The community suggested that we would be doing a worthy deed in permitting her to live in these church rooms. She said she would try to pay five dollars a month and would be glad to keep an eye on the property for us. The church session does not object to her being in the property.

My recommendation is that we allow her to occupy the rooms with the understanding that she is to pay $5 per month, but that she be allowed to remain though she cannot meet the obligation all winter. She will be careful of the fire and the heat will help to keep the property in better condition. She has been in the habit of letting the Indian children play in a large upstairs room, and during that time she gives them supervision.

The Petersburg Church expressed a hope that I might be able to visit them again the first of next month.

You will note that visits to nearby communities cost considerable money. I was fortunate to be able to join a party which had chartered a small boat for the trip over. A trip in December might cost as much as $30.00.

You might like a picture of this trip. The little gas boat left Wrangell at midnight Oct 31st and we bounced over the waves for six hours before arriving at Petersburg. There was no sleep because the boat was too small to accommodate the party. I paid $5.00 for the privilege of riding. The downpour of rain was very heavy in Petersburg and we sat in the boat another hour before walking to the hotel. The hotel proprietor came at 8:45 and I secured a room. In order to contact the people I made three calls at homes and then went to the shrimp cannery. The pickers were having a short day getting through at 11 a.m. After making the announcements in the different cannery rooms I called on the cannery operator. Then I went to the hotel for an hour and half sleep. At 1:30 I started out again making calls. We had a fine evening with the congregation. I was ready for bed having had very little sleep in the last 40 hours. The next day I made more calls including the CC camp where the foreman invited me to come for a service on my next visit to Petersburg. A number of the men invited me to be certain to come. Then I got the crew together for falling the flag staff and doing the sewer work. Worked with them till 5 p.m. Had supper and met with the congregation again at 7 p.m. After the meeting I called on some whites who are Presbyterians. They wish a baby baptised on another visit. Went to bed at midnight with a call to catch the steamer at 8 a.m. We waited and waited until 11 a.m. for the boat to arrive, and she finally left Petersburg at 3:30 p.m. They were so crowded that they had sitting space only. Reached Wrangell again at 7:45 p.m., the 3rd. Was thankful to be on a steamer instead of a gasboat for the return trip.

In order to not miss my Wrangell Institute student classes it is necessary to go to Petersburg on a charter vessel. Are you willing to approve the expenditure necessary?

Sincerely,

Russell Hudson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CA.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, CA.
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, CA.
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METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell

November 4th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Herewith you will find the Application for National Missions Aid submitted by Rev. D. G. Christiansen for the Ketchikan First Presbyterian Church, and an additional blank indicating a checked in program for Saxman.

You will note that Mr. Christiansen has made his application for $1525 for the year and states that the church will pay to the minister $100.00 and the pension premium.

You will note also that I have filled out the recommendation of the National Missions Committee that the Board grant the field $1425.00.

Rev. D. G. Christiansen's total salary should be $1525.

Mr. Christiansen has insisted that his salary all come from the Board of National Missions, that the church would pay the $100 to the Board, that is in the years past. He has told that the church is doing $100 a year toward self support.

My contention is that self-support should be paid direct to the pastor or missionary, and in that way the Church actually recognizes that the minister is their own, and they will be more apt to progress toward self-support.

I wonder how you feel about this point. It may not be vital, but it has its implications.

This application has not been delayed in my office. It is dated as of October 1st, but the postmark in Ketchikan is October 31st, 2 p.m.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, Ch.
KETCHIKAN ALASKA

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Act. Ch.
METLAKATLA ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
Box 275 METLAKATLA ALASKA

Wrangell
November 6th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

This evening I received your night letter answering my night letter of the 4th on the subject of leadership for the Juneau Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The appointment of William Youngs as a Layworker in the Juneau Memorial Presbyterian Church is not meeting the need for leadership in the Memorial Church. We must consider his appointment as a temporary expedient. Mr. Youngs has a fine spirit and appears to have been of real assistance to the Session of the church, but he is not qualified to carry on for any length of time.

The need for some kind of leadership was so urgent that we decided that we must make some recommendation at once. The Indian people are at a loss without a capable leader. That fine church plant with an investment of about $20,000.00 was being endangered because we are face to face with winter. Equipment must be cared for by a careful attendant.

The National Missions Committee is praying that you may very soon be presenting missionaries for appointment to the Craig-Klawock and Juneau Memorial fields.

That Craig-Klawock field is too far removed for the members of the National Missions Committee to visit without neglecting the particular work for which they are appointed. With the M/s Princeton we were able to get out to the fields between Sundays. But without a mission boat we are at a loss what to do.

Sincerely,

Russell F Pederson

Russell F Pederson

Copy for Dr King - this sheet goes to all our Ministers

Mr. Merlyn A. Chappel is inviting all to read Dr. Arthur H. Limouze's National Missions study book, "Homeland Harvest." A California teacher of interdenominational training classes who was making a tour told me that "Homeland Harvest" is one of the most Christian books she has ever studied, and that she has found it full of most challenging information and inspiration. I have been studying the book and find it of real value to our missionary group.

Rev. Bert J. Single was on the "Yukon" passing thru Prumpell, Oct 17th. He said he was going back to New York. He said that he had heard nothing from Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Peterson of Cordova since they went south for medical treatment the 28th of August.

Rev. and Mrs. Verne J. Swanson seem to be happy in their work at Hydaburg. They have a great opportunity with a people willing to take part in a Christian program. They arrived at Hydaburg on the Princeton Sept 30th.

Rev. Ralph E. Wheeler, Haines, Oct 14: "We had fine observances of World Wide Communion despite the unseasonably cold weather here and in Klukwan. Last Monday as I was starting to Klukwan for the funeral of Roy Hotch with five passengers aboard the wishbone on my Ford broke. So I hired Red Mellott's taxi truck. Thursday I worked with Rev. A.P. Swengger, his son Dallas, Jack Falconer, & Mr. Swets, sorting & sacking & loading on to the "Princeton" four tons of potatoes. It was snowing intermittently--earlier than in many years. Most of the local people thought the snow would turn into rain a little distance down Lynn Canal. Hence we were shocked to hear over the radio that the 'Princeton' had struck a rock. We have great trust in Capt. Falconer's skill & judgment."

Rev. Donald S. Christiansen, Ketchikan, Oct 16: "In Saxman both our Sunday School and our week-day Bible School are now under way. Out there our Bible School is conducted in the school room and with the assistance of Mrs. Christiansen and Miss Giblin, we are able to conduct a profitable hour. Mr. George McKay, the man who interprets for me at our services in Saxman, is also Superintendent of our Sunday School there. There are 15 children enrolled in Sunday School. The morning worship service is held in Saxman at the same hour that we meet in Ketchikan so lay-worker George McKay conducts the service in his native tongue. However at the three-o'clock service, he interprets for me when I bring the message. On Sept 21, 22 and 23rd, I served as missionary on the Princeton visiting Belle Island health resort and Kasaan. Our week-day Bible School in Ketchikan is getting off to a fine start this year with 42 children enrolled."

Miss Blanche Hopp under date of Oct 10 wrote that Dr. King is on an extended field itineration from which he will return the latter part of the month.

Mr. George E. Betts is beginning his service at Angoon as of October 1, and he is anticipating a strong Week Day Bible School as well as the other regular services Sunday and midweek.

Mrs. Casper Hollingstad, John George and Mrs Rusk as Church Elders are conducting the Christian Endeavor Sunday afternoons at Petersburg. Mary Booth and Annie Kito are having Sunday School. They are all looking forward to a happy winter as they keep their pledge to keep the Petersburg Church in activities.

THE M/s PRINCETON Oct 14 Daily Alaska Empire narrated: Survivors of the wrecked Presbyterian Mission boat Princeton, brought to Juneau last night aboard the Game Commission vessel Bear, told a tale of hardship today that revolved around the experience of three men and three little Native girls huddled on a barren windswept rock for nearly 20 hours in snow and darkness. The Rev. A. D. Swogger, of Ketlakatla, in the wheelhouse of the Princeton when the vessel struck, related the story of the wreck today and summed up with the statement, "Once in a lifetime is enough of that." The Rev. Mr. Swogger said the Princeton was moving along at a cruising speed of about 8 miles an hour in a "terrible storm," high wind, heavy seas and blinding snow falling. "I had the wheel and was following the course," Rev. Swogger said, "when the light on Little Island suddenly appeared thru the snow. I called Captain John C. Falconer and he took the wheel. We thought we were far enough off, but the light was very deceiving in the snow and barely discernible. We hit the rock pretty hard." Striking full on the rock, just off Halston Island in Lynn Canal with the tide a third of the way in, everyone was able to get ashore by putting a ladder over and wading to the beach, Swogger said. The vessel had hit at 8:15 Thursday night, and for a quarter of an hour, the beach was available by wading, but when Capt Falconer gave up the vessel shortly after 11 o'clock, after sending out his radiophone call for assistance, the perilous journey ashore had to be made with the small boat. The skiff was lost, however, with considerable food and provisions. To add to the misery of the stranded party, Rev. Swogger's flashlight failed, and when he was holding Capt Falconer's flashlight, that light was knocked from his hand when Falconer passed him a suitcase, leaving the party without light.

Little Island is but a city block square, with no trees or brush atop its rocky crown, no driftwood, and the only shelter was the little square framework of the beacon behind which Rev. Swogger's son Dallas, 17, huddled in the snow with the three little Native girls, Elizabeth Roberts, 12, Ann Roberts, 10, and Alice Mae Roberts, 6. Rev. Swogger and Capt Falconer were forced to try to find shelter behind the rocks. They had no fire, and it alternately snowed and sleeted all night. Their only warmth came from a few blankets and tarpaulins saved from the wreck.

At 3 o'clock Friday morning, the Game Commission vessel Bear appeared offshore, but the seas were so heavy no landing could be made. Another boat, "about as large as the Bear and painted gray," passed the rock about 11 o'clock yesterday morning, Rev. Swogger said, "but didn't make any attempt to take us off." The Bear made two more attempts to take the stranded party off the rock, and at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon got a boat over and after nearly an hour of manouvering, managed to make a landing and take the cold, drenched and shivering survivors to the warmth of the Bear, after the party had been without fire or shelter for nearly 20 hours. There were 3 inches of snow on the rock when the rescue was effected.

While the Yukon was in port the morning of the 17th, Mr. Swogger told me Dallas and the Roberts girls were aboard. Falconer was expected to return to Ketchikan on the Northland, the 20th. Up to this evening I have heard nothing more as to the salvage or abandonment of the Princeton.

People have come to me to start activity toward rebuilding or replacing the M/s Princeton at once. They realize the important work which the Princeton has been doing. The Presbyterian Church is the only one which gives a all the year around ministry of mercy as well as evangelism and Christian nurture to the out of the way places, the towns off the steamer lanes. It seems to me that we must show the Board of National Missions our faith in mission boat work by making a sacrifice to rebuild or replace the Princeton.

Are there churches or individuals in Alaska who will show their faith in missionary work and ministry with the use of a good ship like the Princeton? Alaskans, we are facing the acid test. Insurance will help, and now is the time for us to show our Board that we have been and are supporting this part of the Presbyterian program. Send me a list of pledges to forward to the Board.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pedersen, M.M.U.

October 19, 1939

Nov.
6th
1939

Rev. Mr. R. F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

When I returned from an extended field trip, all of your letters and the bad news about the Princeton was facing me. Certainly that was a tragic situation. However, we ought to be thankful that no lives were lost and that we are as well off as we are. I think that as we go along through life, if we count our blessings and forget our knocks we are able to maintain our song.

In regard to Mr. Falconer, I am extremely sorry that he had the misfortune of losing the clothes and food. I wish we could do a lot more for him than we are able to do, but it is our plan to pay his salary for the month of November. That will help tide him over the rough places.

Something of course must be done and be done immediately about transportation. You are there on the field and ought to know what will answer the needs in the most economical way. Therefore, I will appreciate it if you will make a thorough investigation and send me a definite statement about what arrangements can be made and setting forth the cost thereof. This arrangement will be indefinite, so do not bind yourself one way or another.

I note what you have said about the Juneau church. In the face of the recommendations in favor of Mr. Webster, I am wondering how you are going to avoid responsibility for Mr. Soboleff. Mr. Soboleff is a product of Alaska and of our Presbyterian Church. When he came to the States to enter school, it was with the assurance that he would be returned to Alaska for service. That of course is the ideal setup. Alaska has produced very few native leaders. We cannot afford to pass by an opportunity now.

It was clearly in Dr. Somerndike's mind to place Mr. Soboleff in the Juneau Memorial Church. Here is a paragraph that I am quoting to you from one of his most recent letters:-

"I feel the place for Mr. Soboleff and his charming and capable wife would be at Juneau. Rev. Mr. Waggoner will retire about the time Mr. Soboleff is ready for a charge. The new building with its enlarged program will need a young couple. The Juneau First Church is made up of Soboleff's own people and many former Sheldon Jackson students are there or pass through town. Someone has said that the last five years has seen a terrible race hatred spring up in Juneau. No one but Soboleff could cause the white people to forget their imagined superiority and produce racial harmony. Almost any field needs a Walter Soboleff, but in Juneau he will have the greatest opportunities of helping his people."

I am not committing myself to the appointment of Mr. Soboleff, but I will say to you that before any appointment is made for this Juneau church we must take care of this man.

In your letter of October 23rd you ask several questions that no doubt have been answered in your own mind long before this time. No one on our Board or connected with our Board has any responsibility with salvaging the remains of the Princeton. The Princeton belongs now to the insurance company. No other appointment has ever been made by our Board for anyone else to act as our Agent in the Territory, other than yourself.

I am glad to tell you that I have secured an additional grant of $50 for the Sitka manse.

I am making definite plans to spend the month of April with you in Alaska. I realize more than ever how necessary it is that I become acquainted with the problems and conditions, first hand. So in your planning I trust that you will make ready for my visit so that it will count for the most.

Cordially yours,

P. S. Today I received your telegram in regard to the lay workers for the Juneau Memorial Church. I have answered stating that we would concur in the recommendation. However, I want it clearly understood that this is purely a temporary arrangement and can be terminated on short notice. In order to safeguard all interests, it would be well for you to send me the qualifications of Mr. Young.

E.B.K.

Nov.
8th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

In your letter of October 30th I was surprised to read about the Sitka church recommending the appointment of an assistant pastor. I had not heard of any such movement. It all came to me out of a clear sky. I am sorry to say that it will be impossible for the Board to grant any additional sum at the present time. If the Sitka church is in need of an assistant pastor, perhaps they can raise the money locally to support him.

I am glad to place my approval on the appointment of Gibson Young in charge of the Kake field. I wish you would keep careful and close touch with Mr. Young and let me know how he progresses in his services. Please let me know when he expects to begin his work.

I am glad to tell you that the Board approved my request for a grant of $110 to purchase the kitchen range for Hydaburg. Please notify Mr. Swanson to send me the bill and I shall see that he is reimbursed immediately.

Cordially yours,

EBA:BH

Nov.
10th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell P. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter of October 30th regarding the need of an appropriation of $100 to make necessary repairs and replacements in the manse at Kake. I will be glad to request this grant at the next meeting of the Board which will be held on December 15th. If, however, you feel that these repairs cannot be held up until that time, I would suggest that we use a portion of the grant of $400 which was made last March for repairs to the church basement at Kake. This amount has been held subject to your call. I am wondering if this project has been abandoned. Please let me know about this as the money can very well be used in other fields where repairs are necessary.

We are docketing Mr. Gibson Young's salary for 7½ months beginning November 15th at $62.50 per month.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275 STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
Wrangell METLAKATLA, ALASKA

November 13, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your letter of the 6th which came this morning. I will let you know as to what we can arrange about necessary transportation as early as possible.

You have stated that you are not committing yourself to the appointment of Mr. Soboleff, but do say that before any appointment is made for the Juneau Memorial Church we must take care of Mr. Walter Soboleff.

Had you two Walter Soboleffs ready for immediate appointment, the openings are in this Presbytery. Both of them are large challenges and are worthy of the talent and ability of Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff.

The Presbyterian Church at Kake made known their desire that Mr. and Mrs. Walter Soboleff be appointed to serve Kake. Presbytery recognized the Kake Church request, and the National Missions Committee presented the following recommendation which was unanimously adopted by Presbytery in regular meeting:

"We are looking forward with joy to the time when Walter Soboleff will be ready to take up service in our Presbytery, and we recommend that Walter Soboleff on graduation be stationed at Kake, or one of our other Native fields."

The village of Kake has not left off pleading for the service of Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff. As soon as they are ready to come to Kake, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Young can be moved to another field. Their appointment was but a temporary expedient because that very important field could not be left longer without some kind of Christian leadership. They are helping to hold the people. Kake needs the kind of leadership for which Mr. Walter Soboleff has been prepared. Kake should have an ordained minister instead of a short term layman.

Should you consider that Kake is not sufficient challenge to Walter Soboleff, why not place him at Hoonah which is the largest Indian village in Alaska, a community which affords constant contact with many Whites. The missionary at Hoonah must be able to serve the Whites as well as the Indians. The Hoonah Indians are more the people of Soboleff than the Juneau people. I am certain that Rev. and Mrs. Bromley would be highly gratified to have Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff enter the Hoonah field as soon as they are prepared.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Soboleff are not sufficient reason for delaying the appointment of qualified missionaries to the Juneau Memorial Church. In fact the National Missions Committee has not recommended the appointment of Mr. Soboleff to Juneau. We have felt that it would be a serious mistake to place Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff at Juneau without their having had some actual pastoral experience in Alaska. We recognize the ability and training. We know their

winning personality. We realize that you cannot help recognizing that they would make a pleasing picture for the Board to point out as serving a great field of opportunity. They can be of even greater importance in promotional visualization providing you agree to give them the opportunity to help build up a program in one of the Indian villages where there is not the competition at this time, and then at a later date transfer them to Juneau to accomplish the task for which they will have been more adequately prepared. One of the Juneau Indians told me that the Soboleffs would do well in Juneau after some of their tail feathers were pulled out. The Indian people of Juneau have not requested the appointment of Soboloff to the Juneau Memorial Church. Friendly Presbyterian White people, Whites who have worked for the interests of the Juneau Indians, have positively urged the National Missions Committee to not make the mistake of approving the appointment of Soboleff to Juneau at this time.

Dr. King, I am embarrassed in that the Craig-Klawock field has not been mentioned in correspondence from the Board. There has not been a word on the subject of the appointment of a missionary couple to that important field. I wish that you would call Dr. F. D. Thorne or Dr. Arthur H. Limouze for a conference, and ask them to assist you in recognizing the real importance of doing something immediately, RIGHT NOW AND NO DELAY, in securing the right kind of missionary couple to serve that combined field for which there is financial grant provided.

Yes, we on the field are meeting the people. In Craig, a growing center, we have the community church, but we'll not have it long unless Christian leadership is provided. A member of the Session of the Craig Church met with our National Missions Committee this summer, and he told us that the Episcopal Church is ready to place a missionary on that field as soon as the Presbyterians are ready to withdraw. That town wants a Presbyterian Church but continued delay is next thing to telling the church that the Presbyterians are not interested. That field has been vacant for a long time. The worker who was on the Craig-Klawock field did not give regular service to Craig while he was on the field, and he left the Territory in the month of May. Klawock has been a Presbyterian village for a number of years. The Salvation Army has had a small corps at Klawock, but the people looked to the Presbyterian Church for leadership. The Roman Catholics have taken advantage of the Presbyterian lack of leadership, and they are improving their opportunity. Our people are getting discouraged, and Craig-Klawock will be a difficult task for any missionary. Please do something to help get the missionary couple for Craig-Klawock.

Two members of the National Missions Committee are objecting to the appointment of William Youngs as even temporary layworker in Juneau. They feel it is a mistake. We all are certain that Juneau should have an ordained minister and wife at the earliest possible time. Please do not let the Juneau work slip any farther.

If you can possibly arrange to visit Alaska earlier than April, 1940, by all means make your trip earlier.

Please recognize that this letter is written with earnest prayer that Presbyterian interests be furthered.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Peterson

Nov.
17th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

In your letter of November 4th, I note what you say about the application filed by Mr. Christiansen. Since this plan has been followed in the past, and since there is nothing significant attached to it one way or the other, I think it best to leave the application as submitted by Mr. Christiansen stand. Of course, it is the hope that all missionary churches will in time become self-supporting. That is a goal to be reached; but it is a goal that is in the far future. One does not always know the best way of approaching that goal.

I am still waiting for you to send me word about Mr. Soboleff.

I am glad you made the visit to Petersburg and I wish that our budget was large enough to enable me to authorize you to make the trip every month. However, if you can arrange to make the trip once every two months or even three, at an expense not to exceed the cost of your visit in October - namely, $14.90 - I think I can find the money for this and it will provide the Petersburg folks with at least occasional services.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
Box 275
Wrangell

November 20, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSS OF REV. A. D. SWOGGER in wreck of M/s Princeton.

Would you please consider the following? Rev. A. D. Swogger was serving as the boat missionary for the month of October when the M/s Princeton was wrecked.

He told me that his personal loss was a hard blow for the items were those which had to be replaced at once. At my request he submitted a statement which is herein listed and enclosed:

Wool blankets and others,	$40.
Brief case	1.50
Suit case	3.
New Raincoat	5.50
Overcoat	6.
Pair glasses	12.
Loose-leaf note book	2.
Bible	12.
Other books	5.
Sweater	3.
TOTAL	$90.00

Rev. Mr. Swogger of Metlakatla has a family, has had considerable doctor and hospital bills during the past year, and is not in financial condition to stand this heavy loss. Somehow he should receive reimbursement to cover these items.

The missionaries who are staying at home, that is are simply tending to their local field, are saving money as well as physical strain. Those of us who are reaching out to adjacent communities know the extra costs as well as losses. We know that Mr. Swogger on the fateful trip of the M/s Princeton paid the highest price in "exposure" and loss in part covered by the above. An example of loss which he has not listed is the 16mm Eastman movie which was submerged. He hoped it could be repaired.

I would like to call to your attention the nice commendation which Captain L. H. Jennings, the survey officer for the Underwriters, made on the conduct of Mr. Swogger in the attempted salvage operations. Captain Jennings was not acquainted with Mr. Swogger, but he noted a man working with the Coast guard crew and others. That man worked so hard and continuously to make use of every minute before the tide returned that Captain Jennings asked his name. He said he was surprised that a minister could stand such hard and strenuous labor. Mr. Swogger did his utmost.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
November 20, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: WRANGELL MONTHLY NARRATIVE

The past month has been one of great privilege and opportunity.

The student work at Wrangell Institute is requiring more time and attention. The classes are ready for actual study. We have arranged for the boys' group to come first and then the girls' class. Yesterday we had the pleasure of receiving five of the girls into church membership, one was on church letter and the other four on profession of faith. These young people are a real challenge.

I am looking forward to another missionary trip to Petersburg. November 1, 2, and 3 were such inspiration that I really wish to go again. Am hoping that the way may open for me to run over there about the 29th. The members of the Petersburg Church are endeavoring to make some progress with two of their older girls carrying the leadership for the Sunday School and an Elder conducting the C. E. Society. The two well attended services made me feel more than ever that the people welcome.us.

Though the weather has been very stormy, I have been wishing that we had a good boat available so that I might go over to Kake. The Salvation Army is holding a "Congress" in Kake beginning about the 24th of November. With all the high-power leadership they are placing in that small community where we have but a short term layworker, our congregation needs strengthening. Walter Soboleff is needed on that field. He could do more than some of the rest of us with his fellow Thlingits.

Last week one of the best men in Alaska died in Wrangell. The family has been one of our loyal supporters, and the widow and children seemed so thankful for our visits and the arrangement of the church funeral that we believe that God gave us a special blessing. Many people said that Mr. Benjamin's was the largest funeral Wrangell has had. It seemed like the church could not hold all the people who came to the funeral. Yet they kept finding standing room. It is a blessing to be so well acquainted with people that they allow you to help them. We became better acquainted with some other fine people at this time. This has been the outstanding funeral service in our nine years service in Wrangell.

Am enclosing the request for next quarter's supplies for Institute work. Would be glad to have a hundred of the small calendars for use with those people. Sincerely, Russell Hinman

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
November 21, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Just received your letter of the 8th in which you state that you wished me to keep careful and close touch with Mr. Gibson Young, and let you know how he progresses in his services at Kake.

There is no way to keep in touch with Mr. Young other than by correspondence which is not satisfactory. We have no one in the community to whom to look to keep us informed.

It is possible to charter a fairly safe boat at $25 to $30 a day to make the trip to Kake. If the weather should turn out fair, one can go over to Kake for a two day visit at a cost of $120 to $150. Should the weather turn to southeasterly or northern we might have to go to harbor and wait for more moderate weather.

The distance from Wrangell to Petersburg is 40 miles or approximately six hours, and from Petersburg to Kake is 60 miles or approximately eight and a half hours travel. Half the distance from Wrangell to Petersburg is over water which is usually quite rough this time of the year. In fact there are times when the better fishing boats do not attempt to bring their catch across. Almost all the way between Petersburg and Kake the water can be both rough and dangerous.

I am not eager to make the trip on one of these fishing boats which is all that is available. I have taken plenty of rough trips on more comfortable boats. It is not a matter of being comfortable in feelings, but when you get pitched and rolled for hours, your condition is not good. There are no passenger boats making these ports at this time of the year. There is a boat once a week between Wrangell and Petersburg.

The charter bill might be even larger for I do not approve fighting the weather and sea, but would ask the skipper to wait at anchorage. No one can know the misery of taking a beating at sea until he has gone through some storms.

Are you willing to authorize charter of either plane or good boat, and allow us to use our judgment as to the practicable times and expenditures?

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell
November 21, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: SAXMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen mailed me a copy of the letter he sent you as of November 15th. A few days ago one of the Executives of the U. S. Forest Service, Mr. Forrester, was in Wrangell. Mr. Forrester took time for quite a long talk with me as to the Saxman Church Building.

In our conversation I reminded Mr. Forrester that the Board of National Missions had taken steps to cooperate with the U. S. Forest Service.

Mr. Forrester told me that he would have a letter written to me stating what the U. S. Forest Service would do and on what terms. I told him that we would wait for that communication.

Rev. Mr. Christiansen has written you a good letter on this subject, and it justifies your careful study. The Church building at the present time is a disgrace and eye-sore to not only tourists but the rest of us.

As far as I know we have had nothing in writing from the U. S. Forest Service as to their assurances. We must compel them to put their promises in writing.

I told Mr. Forrester that I am certain that a small sum of money could be made available for material such as nails and window and door casings, providing the Forest Service would provide the labor and the materials which they can furnish without xxxxxxxxxxxxx outlay of money.

My conviction is that the Forest Service can do almost anything they wish with the CC labor, and that they will be writing soon.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
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METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Nov 21/39

Dear Verne,

Just received a letter from Dr. King in which he states:

"I am glad to tell you that the Board approved my request for a grant of $110 to purchase the kitchen range for Hydaburg. Please notify Mr. Swanson to send me the bill and I shall see that he is reimbursed immediately."

No word yet as to pastors for Craig-Klawock or Juneau. Wm Youngs is serving in temporary appointment in Juneau Memorial.

Best wishes all the while.

Sincerely,

Russell E.

Leaflet "Why" is available on request should you wish copies for distribution

Nov.
27th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter setting forth the several items for consideration. First of all, I am in sympathy with paying Mr. Swogger the full amount as the itemized list shows his loss. We shall send him a check for the full amount.

In regard to your trip to Kake, I think it would be most worthwhile for you to visit the field. However, the price seems almost prohibitive. I do not think that it would be worth $150 for you to spend two days on the field.

I have Mr. Christiansen's letter about the Saxman church building. In his letter he stated that the Government wanted us to surrender all rights of possession. I wrote him that we could not concur in this request. I am quite sure that we can find a few dollars for materials if the Government can find the labor to remodel this church and place it in a condition that will be pleasing to both the natives and the visitors.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Nov. 29, '39

Dear Russell,

Please send in the enclosed bills for our back porch. The job is done now and is a great improvement to the house

Best regards

Jack

Dec 1/39 Wrangell, Alaska,

Forwarded:

$25.68 to be paid to Rev J L. Webster

20.81 to be paid Sheldon Jackson School

These amounts are charged against the Special grant for the Sitka Presbyterian church. Manse

Russell J. Pederson

Dec.
11th
1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Please accept our appreciation for the checks amounting to $11 for the purpose of aiding the Board to replace the Princeton. You will kindly express this appreciation to each of these individuals.

Here are the answers to your questions as listed:

1. The Board of course is contemplating replacing the Princeton or providing some means of transportation.

2. We do not know when the actual construction will be started. It may be that we can and will secure a boat that will answer our needs, already constructed.

3. I cannot answer the question about appointing a boat missionary at Presbytery. That is uncertain.

4. We are and have been busy working on plans in the interest of replacing the Princeton since its destruction. There is no reason for delaying until my visit.

I hope these questions have been answered in your mind to your entire satisfaction.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
November 20, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King: REPLACEMENT OF THE M/s PRINCETON

Enclosed you will find checks amounting to $11.00 which amount was given to me to forward to the Board of National Missions for the express special purpose of aiding the Board to replace the M/s Princeton:

Mrs. William Tamaree, Wrangell, Alaska,	$5.00.
Mr. George Collins, Wrangell, Alaska,	5.00.
Mrs. Frank R. Fursey, Spokane, Wash.,	1.00.
	$11.00

We have been informed that the Alaska Native Brotherhood in Annual Convention at Sitka made a good sized contribution for the purpose of forwarding same to you to urge the replacement of the M/s Princeton.

We would appreciate knowing the following:

1. Is the Board contemplating replacing the M/s Princeton?

2. When will the actual construction be started?

3. Can the Presbytery expect a boat missionary to be appointed to serve in Alaska Presbytery during the coming year?

4. Will the boat project be held up until after your visit next year?

We believe that you should have a missionary within the Presbytery who will be free to visit the fields without ordained ministers. He can do some good work even without a missionary ship, and he is needed.

As Thanksgiving Day comes this week, or perhaps next week with some, we are thankful for the great work which has been and is being accomplished through the Aid of the National Missions Board.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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METLAKATLA ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
December 1, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Enclosed you will find the salary voucher for Layworker Gibson Young who has begun his service in the village of Kake, as of November 15th.

Please mail Mr. Gibson Young a seven months supply of vouchers and reports. Since workers request me to send them vouchers-reports when they run out, it would be well for you to send me an additional year's supply.

Your letter of the 17th of November reached me this afternoon. I noted your statement, "I am still waiting for you to send me word about Mr. Soboleff." I wrote you a letter on the 13th of November.

The report has come to us that there is a question as to whether Mrs. Walter Soboleff will be in physical condition to return to Alaska for an active life, this is because of a tuberculor condition discovered in the late summer.

I wish that you would let me know whether you have discussed the date of their return to Alaska with Mr. or Mrs. Soboleff.

You should not press them to return before Mrs. Soboleff has been dismissed by the physician. Alaska is trying on the strength of the strong, and if the Church wishes the investment in the life of Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff to count for length of time, some body is going to have to watch out for the health of the missionaries.

Sincerely,

Russell P. Pederson

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
December 1, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Have just returned from another visit to Petersburg where there is a fine spirit of cooperation in maintenance of the Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and Missionary Society.

Those Indian people are responding to my promise to come over to Petersburg as often as possible by doing their utmost to provide their own leadership. Those elders are showing their loyalty to their Church. The Sunday School attendance has been averaging about 34 to 36. The Missionary Society has paid their apportionment to the Presbyterial.

I promised the Church that I would try to be with them shortly after the first of January for a Communion Service.

In the Church service held Wednesday night we had an attendance of about 40. The offering was set aside for purchase of Sunday School supplies. I am sending in the order for them.

The expense for my trip this time was very low. A yacht going that way needed a pilot. They delayed a day so that I might accompany them to assist with the navigation of the narrows which were thick with fog. Was glad to have the opportunity to work my way over, and save the fare. Returned on a gas boat coming this way, making a small contribution of food. My total expense this trip was $4.75, and that is covered: the elderly woman we have been allowing to occupy a couple of upstairs rooms handed me $5.00 as rent for the month of October. Mrs. Owens is having a difficult time, and the town of Petersburg is thankful that she has opportunity to live in those two rooms. They are furnishing her light and water. She is supervising the playroom which we made available for the Indian children. Enclosing 25¢ in stamps to balance account.

Three people have placed in my hands small contributions toward the replacement of the M/s Princeton; but they want to know whether the Presbyterians are going to replace the mission boat and ministry. If the Presbyterians are not going to replace the Princeton, they will wish to place their funds at the disposal of the Salvation Army which organization has been raising funds for the purpose of a boat ministry. Please let me know whether to accept and forward to you funds for the replacement of the M/s Princeton.

Some Klawock people are asking the question whether the Presbytery and Board have forgotten their need of a missionary. I do not believe you have, but you have given no indication of consideration of assisting to supply a worker for Craig-Klawock.

Sincerely, Russell P. Pederson

December 9, 1939

Rev. Mr. Russell F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am glad to get your report about your visit and congratulate you on the Scotchmanlike statesmanship that you used in making the trip. Such cooperation makes it easy to carry on the work.

We are hopeful, of course, that we can find a worker for the Craig-Klawock fields. I have been able to contact several seminary students recently who are interested in Alaska. In fact, when it rains it pours and applications are coming in steadily.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL

Dec.
9th
1939

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have located the right man for the Juneau Memorial Church. His name is Rev. Mr. Paul B. Whiteside.

Mr. Whiteside attended Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee, graduating in the Spring of 1936. He graduated from the Presbyterian Seminary in Chicago in 1939. While in college and in seminary he served in several National Missions fields. One year he was in charge of a social settlement and mission in Middlesboro, Kentucky. He has had a splendid background in his association with our Indian work in the States, together with our National Missions program that fits him for the Juneau field. His wife is a graduate of Park College and of the Presbyterian School of Nurses in Chicago. Her parents were missionaries to the Quiche Indians of Guatemala under our Board of Foreign Missions.

I have no reservations and believe that Rev. and Mrs. Whiteside will fill the needs ably. As soon as your Committee ratifies this appointment I can have Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside on their way to Alaska.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
December 17th 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Today Klawock sent me direct word that they feel that the Presbyterian Church is abandoning their work at Craig and Klawock.

One of the Juneau Presbyterians told me this week that he is certain that it is more urgent that we secure a missionary couple for the Craig-Klawock field.

I am thankful that you have found a missionary and wife in which you have such confidence for Juneau, and I hope that the other members of the N M Committee will concur.

We are being soored because we are not securing a missionary couple for Craig-Klawock. The general public does not know that you have secured a worker for Juneau. When the news goes out that you have found a minister for Juneau and have not located one for Craig-Klawock, it is going to be considered that you and I are not considering Craig-Klawock of importance.

Dr. King, something must be done to place workers on the combined field of Craig-Klawock. The Episcopal Church will serve Craig, but not all the Presbyterians are agreed to turn to them at this time. Those two fields can be served by one missionary couple.

Can you visualize those two isolated villages on the West Coast of Prince of Wales Island? Craig has a sect of extreme character, the Church of God. They will be absorbing our young people. Kaiper did nothing to help them the last two years, and now seven months have passed since he left. The Salvation Army has two of their best qualified workers in Klawock and they are doing their utmost.

Those two villages have had a serious depression economically, but they are establishing themselves so that we can expect them to make progress the next two years.

Again, please let me emphasize that our N. M. Committee believes that the field in Alaska Presbytery most needing workers is that combined Craig-Klawock.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Dec 15 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Rec'd 12/18/39

Dear Dr. King:

Enclosed you will find expense voucher for $16.09 for linoleum rugs and kalsomine for the Kake Manse. Mr. Young asked for glass to repair several windows broken while the field was vacant. I ordered the glass from Petersburg, but have not received the invoice. Mr. Young has written that it is very difficult for his wife to do baking with the kitchen range. It is an old stove, and we may have to replace it. Am writing him to give it a good cleaning and do his best to get along with it. If he writes that the range is impossible, my judgment is that we should order one to replace it. That stove has been in the manse for several years.

Your airmail letter relative to Rev. Mr. Paul E. Whiteside came this morning. Have already written to each of the members of the N. M. Committee asking for their recommendations.

The letter to Mr. Webster should reach him on the 21st or 22nd. The letter to Mr. Bromley may arrive on the 20th. Mr. Swogger should receive his letter the 18th. They may be able to get their answers back to me by January 1st. Both correspondence and travel are slow in the winter time because of the infrequent boats.

We are hoping to hear soon that you have just the right missionary man and wife for Klawock-Craig.

Sincerely,

Russell Knudsen

Dr. King,

Since I was not satisfied with the accompanying report, I mailed a letter to Mr. Gibson Young. This is the copy. Mr. Young may awaken to his opportunity.

R.F.P.

Box 275
Wrangell
December 20, 1939

Mr. Gibson Young
Presbyterian Church
Kake, Alaska

Dear Gibson:

Your report for the period, Nov 15 to Dec 14, came today. It appears to me that you must have made out this report rather hastily, and in your haste have omitted giving the attendance at the meetings.

Your report indicates that you had four prayermeetings, but you do not give the attendance at any of them.

Your report of attendance at morning and evening services the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays is good, and we can understand your surrendering the services on the 2nd Sunday to the Salvation Army Congress.

Is the Presbyterian Church at Kake having no Sunday School at all? Will it be possible for you to start a Sunday Bible school at once? In case you do not have any other materials, use the Gospels I sent you and Bibles. Am sending you a Scripture Text Calendar which will give you the Sunday School lessons.

What happened to the Kake Christian Endeavor Society which used to be so strong? I hope that you may be able to help Willie Dugaqua and others to continue their good work in Christian Endeavor leadership. I sent some material to the Christian Endeavor Society last fall. Please let me know about the Christian Endeavor.

Is the Missionary Society having any meetings? You should help them get revived for several reasons. Your Church needs the spiritual strength of the Missionary Society women. The Missionary Society may be willing to help with the local support of your salary.

We wish you to make a complete statistical report so that our new Board Secretary, Dr. Everett B. King, may know the good work you are promoting and leading in Kake.

We are remembering you in prayer, and wish to help in all other ways possible also.

May God bless and lead you and your wife all through the New Year.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
December 27, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. King:

Today I sent you the following night letter:
REGARDING WHITESIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPLIED QUOTE SWOGGER FAVOR RATIFYING WHITESIDES APPOINTMENT PERIOD WEBSTER PRICE REQUEST WHITESIDE BE SENT CRAIG KLAWOCK MOST NEEDY FIELD PRESBYTERY IF HE UNWILLING WE APPROVE HIM JUNEAU PERIOD BROMLEY NO REPLY PERIOD I BELIEVE CRAIG KLAWOCK SHOULD BE MANNED BEFORE JUNEAU PERIOD WILLING YOU MAKE DECISION

Mr. Swogger wired: "REURLET FIFTEENTH FAVOR RATIFYING WHITESIDES APPOINTMENT LETTER FOLLOWS; and in the letter he asks the question, "Does the lady know music?" Then he adds, "To me, that is a very important feature. However if the rest of the Committee are willing to take a chance on that score, I am willing to cast my vote with them."

Will quote Webster and Price: "Request Whiteside be sent Craig Klawock thirteen churches already working in Juneau West Coast field most needy in Presbytery. If he is unwilling we approve sending him Juneau. Hope you have asked Swanson to hold Xmas services Craig and Klawock. Plan trip to Angoon and Kake first week in January."

Have had no answer from Rev. Mr. Bromley, the other member of the N. M. Committee.

I did not request Rev. Mr. Swanson to hold Christmas services at Craig and Klawock because I believed he should be at Hydaburg at that time, but I have asked Mr. Swanson to make a trip to Craig and Klawock for services to include January 31st.

Dr. King, the general feeling is that the Presbytery and Board should secure a missionary and wife to serve Craig and Klawock before Juneau is manned. Not only the ministers have that conviction, but people of other towns interested in the Presbyterian program have expressed themselves positively.

Either the minister or his wife needs to be capable of playing organ or piano and giving some direction in singing. That is true for all our fields.

The missionaries coming to Juneau can have their freight shipped via either the "Alaska Steamship Company" or the "Northland Transportation Company." They should take passage on the "Canadian Pacific Steamship" which line only allows a 2/3 fare to both the minister and his wife. The C. P. S. boats sail from Seattle, January 12, 26 and February 9th.

The missionaries coming to Klawock can use the same lines. The freight would come via Wrangell, going from Wrangell to Klawock on the mail boat. The more comfortable and equally in cost would be for them to take passage to Ketchikan, and go from Ketchikan to Klawock by plane. The mail boat charges as much as the plane, and the passengers avoid much rough water and save considerable time by going by plane. Klawock plane service is from Ketchikan.

You had better call their attention that all books should be shipped by parcel post because there is a special rate which provides transportation at 1½¢ a pound. That is much cheaper than freight or express, and will take the books to any point in Alaska.

I do not know the furnishings in the Juneau Memorial Manse. Rev. David Waggoner made a deal direct with the Board, and did not send me the inventory which he promised. Your office can likely provide a manse furnishings inventory for the appointee.

I have not communicated with the Juneau Memorial Church as to the possibility of Whitesides being appointed. Perhaps you can let me know when the appointment has been made, and the date they may be coming north. Then I'll notify the Juneau folks.

We were much surprised to have that hundred of large Scripture text and picture calendars come just before Christmas. We were delighted with the privilege of using about half of them at the Wrangell Institute and the others in Wrangell. We do thank you for that gift for this field.

The contributions of papers for the M/s Princeton are being used. I have been sending the Sunday School papers to the Petersburg Sunday School. Have used the "Todays" in the promotion of that helpful devotional. The other papers come handy in our student work at the Institute.

This evening we are giving a Christmas party to 32 of the girls of the Institute. Tomorrow night we are scheduled to have 32 of the boys. Then the next week we hope to have a couple of parties to take in the rest of the Presbyterian boys and girls. We could not handle the whole crowd in two parties.

The week after that I expect to make a trip to Petersburg to lead the congregation is some services and administer the Communion.

With best wishes to you and your staff as you enter the New Year.

Sincerely,

Russell Hedeman